



Elderly still waiting to hear future of homes

By Chris Britcher

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THE GMB union says it is a "shambles" after landlords of the stricken Southern Cross care homes missed the first deadline set for them to take over the homes and appoint new operators.

This means further uncertainty and concern for residents of the homes, which include sites in Faversham and Sittingbourne, as well as Rochester, Bekebourne, near Canterbury, and Broadstairs.

Southern Cross had been the UK's largest care home operator, but found itself in a financial quagmire due to falling income and rising rents.

Despite frantic negotiations with landlords it failed to reach an agreement, forcing it to face closure.

The first deadline was August 1, at which point new operators were to be appointed for the 750 care homes nationally which house some 31,000

elderly and vulnerable residents. But, says the GMB, this has been missed.

The Faversham care home is at Kingsfield in Jubilee Way, with the Sittingbourne home at Elvy Court on London Road.

Southern Cross managers told the GMB, at a meeting on August 16, they were unable to provide a list as some landlords had yet to appoint new operators and no new definite deadline has since been fixed.

The GMB had been told by the company in July that the deadlines for the transfers would see the first 250 homes concluding their transfer by September 30, with the timetable for the remainder by October 31.

Once complete, it was told, "Southern Cross will be wound down" with all landlords expected to make their decision on their future operator by August 1.

Southern Cross says it is unable to comment while confidential negotiations take place.



Potter actor's rescue

For full story see below

INSIDE

- News. 2-27
- Comment/Feedback 28-29
- Business Week 31-33
- Keep Kent Working . 34-35
- Jobs & Notices. 36-44

Kent Weekend

- The Interview 49
- Kent Remembered 51
- Food & Drink. 53-55
- Homes 64-71
- Driving 73-99

EVENT

Get ready for Hop Festival

THOUSANDS are set to flock to the 21st Faversham Hop Festival this weekend, which is promising to be bigger and better than ever before. The free event in the town centre features live music and theatre plus the very best of local produce. The event runs on Saturday and Sunday.

ANIMALS

Pet reunited with owner

ANOTHER dog and its owner have been reunited in Sittingbourne – all thanks to the owners' decision to have the dog microchipped. The labrador was found and reunited with its owner in Doddington - three weeks after going missing. It has prompted calls for pet owners to follow suit.

TRANSPORT

Two railway stations plan

PLANS for two new railway stations and a shake-up of local train services in Sittingbourne and Sheppey are to be unveiled. The plans will be unveiled at a meeting of the Swale Joint Transportation Board on September 5. Full story <http://bit.ly/ocHm34>.

LIFEBOATS

Lifeboat tows film star to safety after getting lost on river

HARRY Potter star Timothy Spall had to be rescued by lifeboat crews after getting lost on the River Medway while filming a BBC TV show – eventually having to be towed to Sheppey.

The actor, who starred in the hit films as Peter Pettigrew, had been travelling back to Chatham Marina in his 55ft Dutch barge for his BBC4 series Timothy Spall: Back at Sea.

But as he travelled along the Medway he could not work out how to get further up the river and found himself instead heading back towards Sheerness and the Thames Estuary.

Among the five people on the boat was Mr Spall's wife Shane.

The RNLI team at Sheerness had been under-going training when they heard the discussions between the barge and

the coastguard. They were then sent out to help the barge and tow it back to Queenborough Harbour.

RNLI crew member Andy Matthews said: "There is lots of mud round there and you need to know where you are otherwise you can end up aground. He was right to call us. We'd rather he call us beforehand, than later when things could have got much worse. Mr Spall

was grateful for the RNLI's assistance."

The crew on the barge were found approximately two miles from the station at the entrance to Stangate Creek. Lifeboat crew member Nicki Wood boarded the barge. They then escorted the boat back into a safe mooring at Queenborough Harbour, where it was safely moored for the journey to continue the following day in the daylight.



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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EDUCATION

Hard work pays off as youngsters bag some impressive exam results

By Marijke Cox

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KENT'S secondary schools are celebrating record-breaking GCSE results for the 16th consecutive year.

Provisional figures showed 84 per cent achieved at least five A*-C grades, up five per cent from last year, and 62 per cent gained five A*-C including maths and English, a rise again of five per cent.

Kent County Council deputy cabinet member for education, Mike Whiting, said he disagreed with the widely held view that the exams were getting easier and instead put the success down to hard work by pupils and teachers.

"The children in Kent schools are working extremely hard and they're being helped by dedicated teachers," he said.

"I think there are a number of factors why GCSEs are improving: educational resources, staff training, KCC being able to offer and buy in resources. It's all having a very positive effect."

Asked whether the rise in tuition fees would impact youngsters' decisions over their next step in education, he said: "I spoke to a number of children and most had applied to stay on at sixth form. Of those I spoke to most had plans in place, whether it was to stay on at school, go to college, do a training course or get a job.

"Teachers said they were expecting quite a considerable number to go into sixth form."

He added: "To those who perhaps didn't get the grades they wanted, there are vocational courses available or they could go to sixth form and retake some of their exams. You don't have to give up on education just because you didn't succeed in one or two areas."

Cllr Whiting said previously struggling schools had also shown improvements with some already beating targets set out for the next two years.

He added: "We're looking forward to September when we start the Kent Challenge. There are 170 primary and secondary schools that we feel need help. It's built on the same kind of model as



BIG IMPROVEMENT: Pupils at Saint George's School all achieved at least five A*-C grades

the National Challenge. KCC will work with the schools to help them improve."

Improvements were seen across the county with Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs celebrating a 20 per cent increase from last year and Swadlands in Maidstone a 55 per cent rise.

Saint George's Church of England School in Gravesend saw pupils achieving five A* to C grades in all subjects, rising from 63 per cent to 88 per cent.

The Isle of Sheppey Academy was celebrating a second consecutive year of improvement with 73 per cent gaining five good GCSE results and 35 per cent achieving five A*-C, including maths and English.

Every student at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School in Canterbury achieved at least five A*-C grades, including a 100 per

cent success rate in maths and English.

Chloe Wheeler, a pupil at Gad's Hill School in Higham, near Rochester, achieved 16 A* and A grades. Teachers believe she could be one of the highest-achieving GCSE pupils in the UK.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Murder investigation

DETECTIVES are appealing for information on the murder of a 32-year-old woman in Medway.

The body of Jennie Banner was discovered by officers at her home in Five Ways Court, High Street, Chatham, at about 9.45am on Friday, August 19. A post-mortem revealed the cause of death as compression to the neck.

Marcus Coates, 43, of Ernest Road, Chatham, has been charged with murder and will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on November 4.

Anyone with information is asked to contact DI Moss on 01622 690690 or Kent CrimeStoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

➔ Public toilets on fire

ARSONISTS have torched a public toilet in Westgate-on-Sea for the third time this year.

Thanet council says this summer has been the worst on record for toilet fires following the blaze at the West Bay facilities on Monday.

It follows previous attacks on toilets in Minnis Bay, Margate, Broadstairs and Joss Bay.

➔ Tombstoning drop

A SAFETY campaign aimed at deterring youngsters from the dangerous craze of tombstoning has led to a 98 per cent drop in incidents.

In February, Port of Dover Police and the Dover District Community Safety Partnership launched a DVD graphically illustrating the dangers with a real life account from Sonny Wells, who was left paralysed after jumping from a jetty in Southsea, Portsmouth, in 2008.

The number of reports of tombstoning at the Port of Dover has since reduced dramatically, with just one reported since this summer.

EUROTUNNEL

Weekend strike threat for tunnel

EUROTUNNEL was bracing itself for strike action this weekend as French workers demanded an eight per cent pay rise.

The Bank Holiday weekend is traditionally one of the busiest of the year for cross-Channel travel but the threats of some employees have thrown the firm's plans into disarray.

Meanwhile rivals were putting on extra services despite Eurotunnel reassurances that it can handle the estimated 25,000 cars booked on the service.

It is not yet known how many workers may go on strike if the unions insist on the industrial action.

However, Eurotunnel chiefs are believed to be staggered at how the situation has occurred at a time of such austerity and



DISPUTE: French workers may strike over pay rise demands

with a pay agreement for 2011 only recently signed.

Negotiations for 2012 are set to begin in four months' time, but it is felt the threat is "an ultimatum rather than a starting point for discussion".

Ports have been notified of possible disruptions so steps can be taken if necessary to

provide alternative transport.

Meanwhile, SeaFrance Dover-Calais Ferries has announced it will be operating an additional 16 crossings for both car and freight traffic this Bank Holiday weekend due to a huge surge in demand and the potential strike action by Eurotunnel employees.

SUMMER SALE

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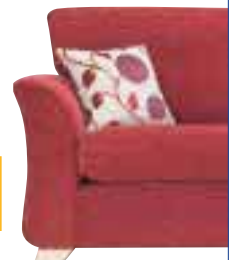
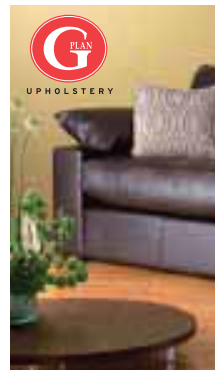
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FOOD & DRINK

Row between celebrity chef and music mogul reaches boiling point

By Chris Britcher

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CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips faces a challenge to the licence of an award-winning restaurant in a row over excessive noise and music – from one of the most influential figures in the British music industry.

Grammy-winning John Craig, who received an OBE for his services to music and charity in 2009, wants Ashford council to review the licence for the Richard Phillips at Chapel Down eatery on the grounds of “prevention of public nuisance and the prevention of crime and disorder”.

Mr Craig is chief responsible officer and governor of the Brit School – which has spawned such big names as Adele, Amy Winehouse, Leona Lewis and Katie Melua – as well as being the longest serving member on the British Phonographic Industry's (BPI) council and a member of the Prime Minister's steering committee on knife crime.

But he says a marquee in the grounds of the restaurant is causing him – and his neighbours – a headache.

He has even engaged the services of an “acoustic consultant” to prove sound levels are too high.

The restaurant is set in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the Chapel Down Winery estate. In 2010 it was named a winner of the OpenTable.com Diners' Choice awards, and is regularly short-listed as one of the top restaurants in the county.

Richard Phillips, who appears on TV shows such as Ready Steady Cook and Saturday Kitchen, will now have to put up a defence when the council's licensing sub-committee meets on September 5 to discuss whether the licence should be changed or even revoked.

The meeting next month will see discussion over a review based “upon the need to resolve ongoing problems associated with excessive noise emitted from events held outside the restaurant in a marquee”.

A ban has already been placed on music being played in the marquee after complaints.

The agenda for the meeting says: “The problems arose in the summer of 2010 and the noise has affected Mr Craig during the daytime and evening. The noise takes the form of amplified music and speech from events in the marquee, and from people attending and leaving the events.”

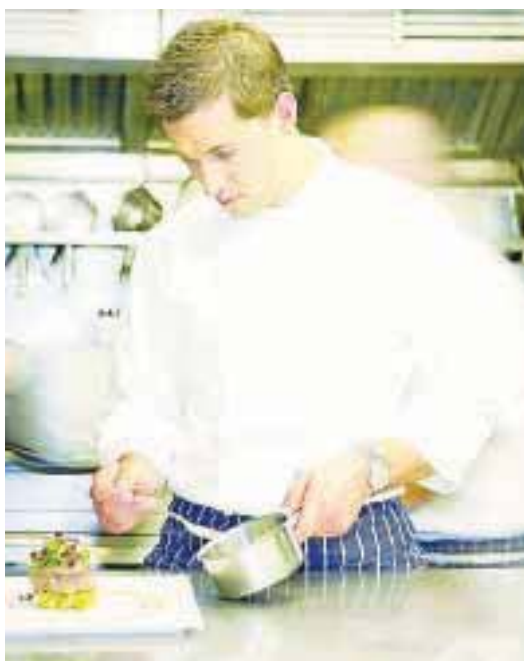
A further 10 residents have supported the call.

But the restaurant will also have power in its supporters – with letters backing the restaurant coming from the CEO of Chapel Down, the vineyard on which the restaurant is based; the CEO of tourist agency Visit Kent, and the CEO of Locate in Kent. They all point to the restaurant being an important attraction and employer.

Richard Phillips said: “I am disappointed by the decision to deny permission for amplified music to be played at the marquee on the site.

“Recently a large investment has been made in noise reduction technology which has reduced noise levels considerably. However, it is conceded that some of the neighbouring properties had been exposed to noise nuisance during past events. Therefore we will not hold evening events at the marquee after the end of the 2011 wedding season.

“We wish to work with the local authorities to ensure Chapel Down remains a destination venue for the many people who visit the exceptional vineyard and my restaurant.”



DISPUTE: Celebrity chef Richard Phillips' restaurant at Chapel Down faces threat to its licence from action brought by music mogul

HOUSING

County Hall vows cuts to housing scheme will not hit disadvantaged

COUNTY Hall chiefs have assured vulnerable groups they will not be left at risk through the reduction of so-called ‘Supporting People’ services.

The national scheme, which was introduced in 2003 to provide housing-related support and care for disadvantaged people, is under threat due to Government spending cuts.

But Kent County Council cabinet member for customer and communities, Cllr Mike Hill, said Kent would not see a significant reduction in the number of people receiving the services, despite the need to reduce expenditure in the future.

He said: “We will offer these services in a more cost-effective and efficient way. The reduction will be delivered by negotiating with providers to bring down the hourly and weekly rates.

“We are considering expressions of interest from providers for floating support services and as we expect them to tender competitively, there may be little or no reduction in service provision.”

But Kent Labour leader, Cllr Leslie Christie,

said although the council was not the worst-affected in England for Supporting People cuts, the reductions will still have an impact.

“The Government is imposing these cuts and sitting back and watching local councils do the dirty work for them,” he said.

“The job of Supporting People is to try and help the most vulnerable people; those with learning difficulties, young single mothers, elderly people, young ex-offenders; many of whom are on the outskirts of society.

“Although KCC is not the worst, it has, however, decided to put £5 million into a Big Society fund that no one actually knows what is for.

“As far as I’m aware there is no specific criteria for this money.”

Asked what the Labour Party would have done, he said: “We wouldn’t have taken £5m out. We would have also looked at things in a more sympathetic way in terms of Supporting People.

“I think many people would agree that early intervention is an invest and save exercise. It makes sense to get in early.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Rail plans on track

PLANS for two new railway stations and a shake-up of local train services in Sittingbourne and Sheppey are to be unveiled.

Cllr Mike Whiting, Kent County Council member for Swale Central, says the growth outlined in recent consultations about development and growth in Swale will increase traffic, but that roads alone are not the solution.

The plans, which will be unveiled at a meeting of the Swale Joint Transportation Board on September 5, have also been sent to Transport Secretary Phillip Hammond.

➔ Starving horse saved

A HORSE found starving to death in a field has been nursed back to health by a Kent animal rescue charity.

Dolly, a two-year-old cob, was abandoned in a tiny enclosure on waste ground in south-east London without food or water. Rescuers at Happy Endings, which has a sanctuary in Sevenoaks, said she had been just hours away from death.

➔ BMX circuit praised

OLYMPIANS from the USA's BMX squad have praised Gravesend's new Cyclopark.

Ten riders practiced at the multi-million pound sports facility ahead of an international championship meeting in London last weekend.

USA Cycling BMX programmes director Mike King said: “This is a fantastic track and will offer exciting riding for all levels, from recreational BMXers to riders at the top of the game.”

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ARAB SPRING

Strong leadership is key to ensure success of revolution in Libya

By Marijke Cox

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AFTER more than 40 years of rule, the game looked like it was finally coming to an end this week for Colonel Gaddafi.

But while rebels celebrated after taking over Libya's capital of Tripoli, others expressed their fears over the challenges that lay ahead for the country.

Rosemary Tennent, from Canterbury, who spent two years living under Gaddafi's rule during the 1980s, said although she would be pleased to see him go, revolutions rarely brought the hoped-for change without strong leadership.

She said: "In the past the Arab man was in charge of the streets and of his family, and would expect respect whether he deserved it or not. His pride and honour were an essential part of him.

"That is changing now and the Arab world is clearing out their selfish old men who have become out of touch with their very large younger populations and with the real world, surrounded by fearful sycophants and political manoeuvring.

"Having said that, I don't know what will hap-

pen now in Libya. The people hope for democracy, but have no experience – Gaddafi has been in power for a long time and generations have grown up under his autocratic rule.

"Revolutions rarely bring the hoped-for change without very strong leadership and a call for compassion for those who acted in the past out of fear."

Mrs Tennent said she believed Gaddafi would not go without a fight.

"This is not finished yet and may yet disintegrate into a situation much like Iraq," she said.

"Male pride is very strong in these regions and scores of over 40 years of repression may need to be settled for the sake of family 'honour'.

"I hope not, but fear the worst – the people hope for democracy and the chance of living their own lives in a more free society, but already the Egyptian and Tunisian peoples are becoming restless at the lack of change from their own revolutions.

"The noble fighters are sent home and the politicians and the power hungry move in to divide up the spoils amongst themselves. Where are the far sighted and fair minded leaders?"

MP for South Thanet Laura Sandys, who has



FUTURE:

The next few weeks are crucial in ensuring change really does happen in Libya

previously worked with UK military intelligence through King's College, said stabilisation and reconstruction efforts would produce "immense challenges" in the days and months ahead.

She said there were key lessons that could be learned from Iraq in how Britain could help guide and support the new administration in Libya.

She also stressed it was important that institutions in Libya were reformed not disbanded, and that remaining pockets of conflict and ethnic, tribal and sectarian divisions were addressed.

"When the curtain falls on 42 years of Gaddafi rule, the success of UN-sanctioned intervention will not be judged on the immediate days

that proceed, but in the months and years ahead," she said.

"As the longest-reigning Arab leader, perhaps never before has there been such a need to ensure the next steps are guided by a coherent and informed roadmap. Initial signs bode well.

"The transitional government – with the assistance of Western partners – has already prepared a blueprint.

"But there are evidently some real similarities between Iraq and Libya.

"It is simple advice perhaps, but policy-makers would do well to take heed of their previous mistakes and learn the lessons of Iraq and Afghanistan."

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PFIZER

Enterprise Zone 'is not a long-term solution'

By Marijke Cox

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CRITICS of the Government's new Enterprise Zone at Pfizer claim it will do little to improve the economic regeneration of east Kent.

This follows the announcement last week that Sandwich Discovery Park – the new name of the drug giant's site – has been chosen as one of the zones in a bid to drive investment to the area following Pfizer's exit next year.

The scheme looks to attract businesses by offering incentives including tax breaks, simplified planning laws and fast broadband.

But while Chancellor George Osborne and science minister David Willetts celebrated with Kent's politicians and business leaders last week, others cast doubt on whether the new status would have an impact on the economy.

Former deputy prime minister John Prescott claimed that instead of new companies starting up, existing firms would just move around the corner to

benefit from cheap rates.

Research carried out by not-for-profit think tank the Work Foundation was also critical of the scheme.

And despite a positive response in Kent, some living in the county were still dubious as to whether the new status will have the desired impact.

Thanet councillor David Green (Lab) said the limited scale of the Enterprise Zone, where it covers only the Pfizer site and no more, risked creating a "doughnut effect".

"An oasis of economic growth and innovation amid an outer ring of more sluggish activity," he said.

"Exactly how the Government will stop a migration of companies currently outside the Enterprise Zone relocating inside to reap the benefits remains a moot point.

"The other major problem is whether Enterprise Zones make a sustainable, long-term difference. They are certainly not a substitute for a considered long term economic regeneration programme."

Cllr Green said evidence sug-

gested that Enterprise Zones or any policy offering incentives in concentrated areas were likely to be ineffective at stimulating sustainable economic growth in depressed areas.

He stated they were "hugely expensive", created displacement and did little to promote lasting economic prosperity.

"I suggest the Enterprise Zone will do little to improve Thanet's economic development in the long term, unless it is bigger, so that it does not take jobs from within Thanet," he said. "It must be accompanied with targeted investments in skills and infrastructure, to ensure they lead to lasting improvements in competitiveness."

The Discovery Park Enterprise Zone is expected to support up to 2,600 jobs and 190 businesses, mitigating the impact of Pfizer's exit.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys said the move marked a significant step in regenerating the east Kent economy.

■ **Turn to page 28 for George Osborne's view on the new Enterprise Zone.**



PROBLEM:

Critics fear Enterprise Zone status will lead to businesses relocating, rather than helping to create new companies

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ART

Sirens a-dress mermaid's lack of tail with a creative 'protest'

By Marijke Cox

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THEY creep out in the early hours donning masks and wigs before dressing up Folkestone's new mermaid statue in equally zany costumes.

And despite some criticising the actions of the anonymous campaigners, who call themselves the Folkestone Urban Sirens (FUS), the all-female movement vows to continue the crusade until they reveal their identities to the masses next month.

The strange campaign started six weeks ago after the unveiling of the Folkestone Mermaid sculpture, created by artist Cornelia Parker for the town's three-month Triennial.

But some were less than pleased when they saw the mermaid – like that of the famous Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen – had legs.

"We were surprised to see the mermaid didn't have a tail," said a member of FUS.

"While we realise it was based on a Folkestone woman we expected more. It's just a cast of a woman, it's not original. It's a bit like the Emperor's New Clothes.

"Although people say it's like the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen and that on land the mermaid doesn't have a tail, we were disappointed."

But instead of sitting back and doing nothing, 10 women joined together to make themselves heard by launching an unusual campaign involving dressing the sculpture in strange outfits while most people were still asleep in their beds.

"It's just a bit of fun. It's not malicious in any



MAKING A STATEMENT: The anonymous Folkestone Urban Sirens have been dressing up the statue of the Folkestone Mermaid as a zany protest to show their disappointment about her lack of a tail

way and we think it's keeping interest surrounding the mermaid," said the FUS member.

"If anything it's generating publicity and this can only be a good thing. We haven't vandalised the mermaid and we never would.

"People think it's hysterical. They know we're not trying to be offensive. We're just making a point that a mermaid should have a tail."

The campaign sees the group getting up in the early hours, putting on disguises and dressing up the mermaid.

One week it was Marilyn Monroe, the next self-portraits of the women in the group with books placed around the sculpture in protest to a critic who called them "bored uneducated housewives".

The FUS member said the Creative Foundation, which is behind the Folkestone Triennial, had not complained about the "publicity-generating" stunt.

And she added that Folkestone mum Georgina Baker, on which the sculpture was modelled, was not offended.

But while the campaigners publically condemn the lack of a tail, others posting on their Facebook page – which has support from 117 people – have given their backing to the tail-less sculpture.

One admirer said: "I quite like the interpretation. If art had to play by the rules, it wouldn't be art, as art can only reside in freedom."

"Nothing wrong with you not liking something. It's healthy for art to be controversial as people differ and so do their opinions."



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HEALTH

Waiting times soar as hospitals struggle to meet funding cuts

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

PUBLIC spending cuts have been blamed for a sharp increase in the number of patients waiting for NHS care.

In June there were 315 people who had been waiting more than the Government target of 18 weeks for treatment from NHS West Kent – a 61 per cent increase from last year.

This is compared to a 32 per cent decrease at hospitals covered by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent.

Nationally the number of people forced to wait six months has leapt by 61 per cent in a year, from 7,360 in June 2010 to 11,857 this year.

Dr Mark Porter, chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants committee, said: "Trusts are having to make huge cost savings as demand for services continues to grow."

"The NHS is being asked to do more with fewer resources, and it was always likely there would be an impact on waiting times."

Despite the waiting time increases at both NHS West Kent and NHS Medway (up 34 per cent from 108 to 145), a spokeswoman revealed the trusts were still hitting their targets of 90 per cent of admitted patients and 95 per cent of non-admitted patients being seen within 18 weeks.

Examples as to why the target may be missed on occasion include when a patient requires a complex operation only performed by a particular surgeon, or in the case of



LONG WAIT: There has been a large increase in the number of patients waiting more than 18 weeks for NHS treatment

exceptional weather conditions when patients and staff may not be able to access their hospital.

However, John Ashelford of the Kent Local Involvement Network (LiNK) said he believed the increases were also partly due to financial reasons.

He said: "NHS West Kent always seems to be running at a big deficit and struggling to balance its books."

"There seems to be big investment in east Kent, and that's been the case for many years because there are more areas of deprivation there."

"But it's not a very encouraging picture and my big concern is that the longer you leave surgery, the worse the problem often gets."

"The quicker you can get people treated and back in the community, the better."

According to the latest Department of Health figures, about one in three primary care

trusts in England are failing to hit the target of 90 per cent of patients being seen within 18 weeks.

The Labour Party says this is due to the Coalition spending a "wasted year" forcing through its "reckless and damaging" NHS reorganisation.

Former Kent Labour leader and Kent LiNK governor Mike Eddy said: "What's happening in west Kent is very worrying indeed. There's always a negative effect from being so close to London because they can pay higher wages there, leaving our hospitals slightly short of the right people."

"But that's a continuous problem. The NHS reorganisation which keeps stopping and starting is not helping the situation at all."

"It can be quite disastrous for the patients and there's the old adage that if you wait long enough then the patient won't be around any more anyway."

FESTIVAL

Fun for all as town set to celebrate the sea

JUGGLERS, flamenco dancers, stilt walkers and a mermaid are descending on Sandgate seafront for the sea festival this Bank Holiday weekend.

The popular event begins on Saturday with a fireworks display and beach barbecue, and continues on Granville Parade and The Esplanade on Sunday from 11am-5pm.

Catering stalls, live music and DJs, and a beer festival at the Ship Inn will be available.

ENTERTAINMENT

Stars will add sparkle when they visit club

INBETWEENERS star James Buckley is due to DJ at a new nightclub in Chatham.

The 24-year-old, who plays foul-mouthed Jay Cartwright in the hit E4 series and movie, will appear at Krystals & Vanity Nightclub in New Road at a future Tuesday students' night. Other guests due to appear include cast members from the TV shows Skins and Dirty Sexy Things.

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ETHICS

KCC criticised over tobacco cash

KENT County Council has come under fire for investing nearly £24 million in the tobacco industry.

The authority has pumped about £13.5m into the Altria Group, £3.6m into Philip Morris, £3.5m into Imperial Tobacco and £3.4m into Japan Tobacco as part of its pension fund portfolio.

Strood GP Dr Julian Spinks told the BBC: "I'm very disappointed they are actually investing public money in tobacco companies. It's totally unacceptable for a council that is going to take a lead on public health."

KCC has been criticised in the past for investing in the tobacco, oil and arms industries.

In 2008 the council agreed to consider more carefully whether it should invest in "unethical"

companies following an 18-month campaign by Kent Green Party and other pressure groups.

But a KCC spokeswoman said this week the authority had a financial responsibility to obtain the best possible return for the 350 public bodies covered by the pension fund.

She added: "To meet this responsibility, we do not impose restrictions on the companies our external investment managers can or cannot invest in."

"However, we do monitor the activity undertaken by investment managers and, as with all our investment, we work to the United Nations' principles of responsible investment."

"Direct investment in tobacco represent about 1 per cent of our total equity investments."

EXTRADITION

Portugal prison hell over for firefighter

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER firefighter branded a football thug and thrown in a Portuguese jail after a "farce" trial has been reunited with his family.

Garry Mann – who was twice

commended for bravery during his 31-year career in the fire service – was extradited in May 2010 and sentenced to two years' imprisonment for his alleged involvement in a riot during the 2004 European Championships.

The 53-year-old father-of-

six served half his sentence, returning in May to complete his time in a British jail, and has now been reunited with his family in Faversham.

He said: "I'm glad to be back home with my family.

"It was a tough experience to be so far away, but I'm hoping

to finally get on with my life."

Mr Mann was sent to prison after a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) was issued relating to a disturbance in the Algarve resort of Albufeira.

He had been convicted of football hooliganism in connection with a riot during the European Championships, but the Birmingham City and England fan denied ever being involved and said he had witnesses to prove it.

But following Mr Mann's arrest, he was tried and convicted of inciting a riot within the space of just 48 hours.

He claimed he saw a lawyer for only five minutes before his day-long trial, and did not have proper access to a translator.

He also claimed he was told that if he agreed to deportation he would not be sent to prison, so he chose to be deported.

But six years later Portuguese officials issued an EAW on the grounds that Mr Mann had not served his sentence in the UK.

Despite a battle by lawyers at Fair Trials International, he was extradited to Portugal to



FAMILY MANN: Garry Mann has been reunited with his family after spending a year in a Portuguese prison for alleged football hooliganism

serve a two-year sentence in May last year.

Mr Mann said the first few weeks in Portugal were extremely tough as he was put in a cell with no lighting, dismal conditions – including excrement on the walls – and food served under the door.

He said he had been let down by the politicians who agreed to the UK's rigid extradition laws and the judges "not willing to stand up for justice".

"This (EAW) was supposed to have been for terrorists implemented after the 9/11 attack, but for some reason I have

been caught in its net," he said.

"I am not the first victim of this system and, until it is reformed, I won't be the last."

Fair Trials chief executive Jago Russell said the warrant had turned Mr Mann's family "upside down".

"Sadly, until it is reformed and we have better standards of justice in Europe, others will suffer the same fate," he said.

"We are delighted Garry is finally able to return home but he should never have been extradited to Portugal following a trial which can only be described as a travesty of justice."

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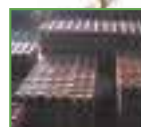
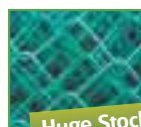
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DEVELOPMENT

Outrage at homes plan on site reserved for jobs

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PLANS to build 550 homes on land designated for employment opportunities in Kent's poorest district have come under attack.

It follows a consultation looking at the future of the Eurokent site at Westwood, which is the focus for new business space in Thanet.

But while the land, owned by East Kent Opportunities (EKO) – a joint venture between Thanet council and Kent County Council – and Rose Farm Estates, was designated exclusively for commercial development, new plans are for hundreds of high-quality family homes to be built.

EKO said the new approach fitted into "a wider strategy for regeneration and economic growth" in the district.

A second stage consultation, which ran between May and August, looked at the revised masterplan, prompting campaigners to speak out against the change of use.

Cllr Clive Hart – Labour leader and shadow cabinet member for economic development and regeneration at Thanet – said the land could be an opportunity for expansion of Saga, which backs onto the site.

The company announced earlier this year it would be creating 1,000 jobs across Thanet, Folkestone and Hythe, with the majority at Westwood.

He said: "This announcement is the kind of opportunity that should be grasped, and I have contacted the Thanet chief executive to make that clear."

Cllr Hart said drawing up plans for housing was "incredibly foolhardy" and a waste of taxpayers' money.

"I'm astonished it is being talked about as though it could happen as the land has been designated for business use and it would have to go through the council before this could change," he said. "There are 26 Labour councillors on Thanet council and three independent, so it would be very hard for this to be voted through."

"It is incredibly foolhardy for these people to be making plans and spending money on a mad-cap scheme that may never come to fruition."

In June last year, a cabinet report set out hopes to create jobs in the district by providing the "type of employment space currently under-represented".

Others, opposed to housing and making their views known during the consultation, said if the land was not used for creating jobs, it should be returned to agricultural fields.

But David Evans, of EKO, said the proposal was to create an "exemplary sustainable development". It would not only include the 550 homes, but business space, and community areas and facilities.

"The new approach is for a mixed-use development to attract people to Thanet," he said. "This fits into a wider strategy for economic growth."

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COMMUNICATION

Shop's fury over 118 118's advert for rival big chain

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THEY are best known for their love-it-or-hate-it advertising campaign, brandishing the slogan "got your number".

But it seems that even if 118 118 does have your number, they may not hand it over willingly.

For callers asking the directory enquiries firm for the phone number of Ramsgate-based house furnishing store JC Farley Ltd are instead bombarded with information from operators about furniture giant DFS.

Only when the caller has heard what deals are on at the national superstore and been offered the number does the operator give the details of the Kent shop.

John Farley, owner of the Chatham Street store, said: "One of our oldest customers who didn't have our number on him used one of his customers' phones to call 118 118 to get our details and was given the spiel about all the special offers at DFS.

"He was a bit fed up. They wouldn't give him our number until they had finished telling him about DFS.

"That is a premium line and they make you stay on the phone whether you want the information or not.

"It's not illegal as far as Of-



NOT YOUR NUMBER: A call to 118 118 for JC Farley will give you adverts for DFS first

com is concerned, but what they're doing is insidious.

"We don't sell the same products as DFS: a lot of what we do is different."

According to Mr Farley there had been a number of complaints made about the directory enquiry firm forcing information about DFS onto callers.

"There's a Government organisation that deals with any problems with premium line calls and there have been complaints made in this particular instance," he said.

"I don't know if it would necessarily have an impact on business but it's appalling.

"I was asked by 118 118 if I would like to pay for the service DFS receives but I can't afford it. Also, DFS has 150 stores; it's very different for them.

"I can't see anybody calling up for DFS and instead coming to us if they hear our advertising deals."

A spokesman at 118 118, however, said the firm operated "ethically and fairly".

"It is very important that four out of every five advertisements carried by 118 118 are for small, local businesses who benefit from the opportunity to compete equally with larger brands with substantial marketing budgets," he said.

"There is therefore no reason Mr Farley should not attract new customers in this way.

"We recognise the idea of directory enquiries giving additional information and offers is new, and we will continue to refine and improve our delivery.

"To be viable, it must be popular with businesses large and small, and our callers. So far, it has proved popular, offering very substantial savings for callers and new trade for businesses."

The spokesman added that the firm's regulator Phonepay-Plus had not received a single complaint on the matter.

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MEMORIAL

Statue plan sparks row over Dickens' final wish

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CHARLES Dickens enthusiasts are divided in their opinion of a statue planned for the legendary 19th century author.

The creator of such literary classics as *Great Expectations* wrote in his will that he did not want any statues or monuments to be built in his memory, with many Dickensians arguing that his final wishes should be honoured.

But next year a £120,000 sculpture of the former Kent resident will be erected in his birth town of Portsmouth, and the final design – of Dickens reading in a chair – has now been decided upon.

"Dickens only wanted his written work to be remembered, and that wish should be honoured," said John Knott, chairman of the Rochester and Chatham branch of The Dickens Fellowship.

"This is not the first memorial that exists of him though.



POPULAR: Charles Dickens

There's also one in Philadelphia that was sent to the Dickens family as a gift some years ago, but it was sent straight back for the same reason.

"We have no problem with him being remembered; just not with a statue of him. A sculpture of one of his characters would be fine."

Despite the views of Mr Knott, the statue has been commissioned by the wider Dickens Fellowship he represents.

The author's great-great grandson Gerald Dickens said it was the "perfect time" to remember his ancestor, despite the will which he believes was a reaction to the over-elaborate memorials of Victorian times.



Rochester and Chatham branch secretary Steve Martin said: "A statue will attract a lot of interest and lead to more people reading his novels. He made his decision 140 years ago, and in this day and age he may have changed his mind."

Born in Portsmouth in 1812, Dickens moved to Chatham at the age of five and maintained a close relationship with Kent – where several of his novels are set – for the rest of his life.

And despite members of his own family now deciding to over-rule one of the wishes in his will, there will probably always be men like Mr Knott who believe it should still be followed to the letter.

He said: "The memorial is every bit as ostentatious as the Victorians would have set up."



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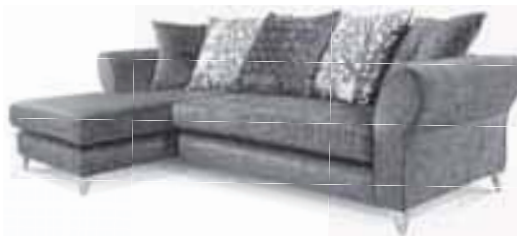


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PLANNING

Give us time to review noise impact to primary school, urge protestors

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS against the £25 million expansion of Lydd Airport have demanded the Government extends the public inquiry to allow for an extensive noise review.

The inquiry, which is currently on hold, is due to finish on September 16 but protestors have written to the planning inspector to ask that it be prolonged.

It follows the completion of a sound insulation performance report commissioned by London Ashford Airport (LAA) – Lydd Airport – and Shepway District Council, listing the potential works needed to mitigate the impacts of noise on Greatstone Primary School, which sits 600 metres from the proposed runway extension.

The report included the need to permanently close windows, install a ventilation system and carry out extensive insulation works on the body of the school to stop noise from aircraft penetrating through and interrupting lessons.

It also revealed that any outside areas of the school would not

be protected from noise.

A copy of the report was supposed to be handed to the chairman of the school's governing body, Paul Black, before he gave evidence on behalf of Protect Kent at the public inquiry last month, but it was delayed and not taken into account.

Campaigners from Protect Kent have now called for a delay on the section 106 agreement, which deals with planning obligations on the developer, and an extension of the inquiry until a more extensive report concerning the school is completed.

Protect Kent chairman Richard Knox-Johnston said: "The evidence Mr Black gave pointed out the effects it could have, but he didn't have the report to back this up.

"We have written to the planning inspector stating that the inquiry must be extended until after the full report is done on the school."

Chairman of governors Mr Black said the report's conclusion that no noise mitigation was possible for outside play or teaching areas was "not a happy prospect".

"We are very concerned that the

report identifies that the outside teaching areas will be in jeopardy should the runway extension be granted," he said.

"It is clearly apparent that we are ill-equipped at the school to cope with external noise disturbance.

"The initial report itself acknowledges that a further study is to be implemented before options for ventilation and noise mitigation can be costed, or their implementation prioritised, to maximise the benefit and limit the disruption of the work.



"Until this further study can provide the necessary information, the governors and staff of Greatstone Primary School cannot agree to be bound by these conditions."

Mr Black said that due to the delay in receiving the report, a copy of which was given to him on August 3, he had been unable to arrange a meeting with school governors

to discuss the next step by the response deadline, set by Shepway council, of August 17.

A Lydd Airport spokesman said the airport appreciated that people were worried about the noise impact on the school and so were prepared to secure appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the "negligible" impact.

TIME:

The inquiry is due to end next month

WILDLIFE

Eco-strategy falling short

THE RSPB has demanded an urgent programme of action to help protect threatened species in Kent.

The call is in response to the Government's England Biodiversity Strategy, which was unveiled last Friday.

Steve Gilbert, RSPB South East conservation programme manager, said: "We strongly support the aim of turning round the declines in our wildlife by 2020 and this is an opportunity to put a spotlight on the future of our wildlife.

"Species are fundamental to biodiversity and must be a central part of this plan. We would like to see it spearheading better management of wildlife sites and lead to new action for those species that are in most trouble.

"This will mean tailoring help to species' needs – for example in Kent we would want to see protection for the places where lapwings breed and making sure we have ideal conditions for other threatened wildlife such as woodland butterflies."

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News

ENDURANCE

Adventurer steps up to the challenge with trek

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

INTREPID explorer Leon McCarron is set to brave some of the world's harshest terrain as part of a 2,500-mile charity trek from Mongolia to Hong Kong.

The 25-year-old Canterbury filmmaker only returned from a round-the-world bike ride in March – during which he narrowly avoided a tornado that destroyed the tiny American town of Little Rock, Iowa – but is already preparing for his next adventure due to be televised by National Geographic.

Leon told KoS there will be plenty more hazards to be aware of once he embarks on the expedition in November.

"The Gobi Desert can get down to -30 at night so we'll have to be well-prepared for that," he said.

"We'll also be paddling down the Yellow River for a

month so we'll have to make sure we're done by January because that's when it normally freezes over.

"We've had to give ourselves little deadlines to meet because things can go horrendously wrong if you don't.

"I think the idea of walking and paddling nearly 3,000 miles is quite intimidating, and there are lots of variations in terrain and the environment.

"Physically it's easy enough but I don't think you can really prepare mentally."

As well as the Gobi Desert and Yellow River, Leon's expedition will also take in the Great Wall of China, the ancient city of Xi An and the limestone peaks of Guilin en route to Hong Kong.

He will be joined by fellow explorer Rob Lilwall, who has previously cycled the 30,000 miles from north-east Russia to London in an adventure that was also filmed by National Geographic.

"Having National Geographic involved has taken everything to a whole new level," said Leon, who was born in Northern Ireland but moved to Canterbury after studying film at the University of Kent.

"This is exactly the sort of thing I want to be doing and it's good that the legacy of the expedition will live on through it being recorded in this way.

"Hopefully the TV series will raise my profile and make it easier for me to market the film I made about my bike ride, which is still very much a priority for me."

Celebrity adventurer Bear Grylls has given his public backing for the adventure – which will raise money for the children's charity Viva – and Leon said he would have no complaints about following in his footsteps.

He said: "I'm more interested in the filming side of things but I suppose that's how people like

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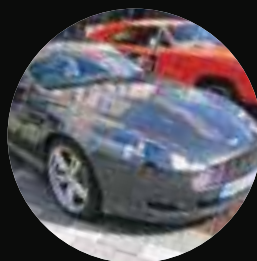
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ADVENTURER: Leon McCarron has not long returned from his round-the-world charity bike ride

Bear Grylls and Ben Fogle started. They got to where they are through their love of the out-

doors, and I certainly wouldn't be averse to being more in front of the camera than behind it."

■ See www.walkinghomefrommongolia.com to find out more.

CHARITY

Racing fundraisers to make a splash for cash

SOME 1,500 paddlers will take to the water for a colourful and energetic weekend of Chinese Dragon Boat Racing at Bewl Water.

The exotic regatta and festival at the Lamberhurst reservoir is in its 14th year and will take place on September 17 and 18. Organisers the Funraisers are hoping the event will raise about £200,000 for the 85 teams' charities of choice.

This will bring the total fundraising pot over the years to £2 million.

Spokesman Pip Lightbody said: "Funraisers Dragon Boat Festival has grown into a massive splash for cash. Thousands of people now come to soak up the atmosphere of 1,500 paddlers in costumes, 12 bands, 40 stalls and activities and a wide range of other exciting attractions."

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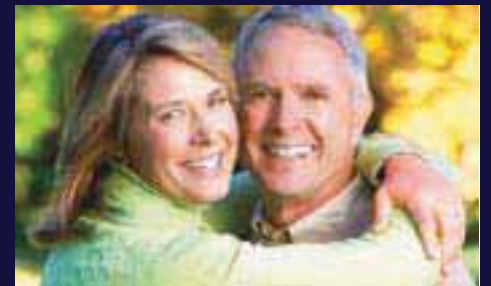
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HOMES

Find the perfect property across the Channel

PROPERTY prices in France are hitting bargain levels again, reigniting a wave of interest in hopping over the Channel.

The credit crunch, volatile exchange rates and eurozone instability may have caused overseas property to have fallen off our radar in recent years, but for many Francophiles the desire to buy in France is as strong as ever.

And for those striking out now, there are plenty of bargains to be had. In fact, many properties are now available at prices that haven't been seen for some years.

It's still a buyer's market, so a little negotiation can perhaps bring those price tags down ever further. However, prices are starting to rise again, especially for well presented properties in good locations, so if you're dreaming of your own pied-a-terre, ski chalet or chateau, don't leave it too long.

For those looking to take the plunge, the French Property Exhibition takes place at London's Olympia next month, with a host of experts on hand to help guide



you through the process, as well as showcasing some of the bargains.

A spokesman for the show said they expected interest to be strong.

They added: "The French property market is a safe and stable environment in which to buy, with the buyer being extremely well protected. Property deals become binding early on in the process, after the signing of an initial contract once the vendor and purchaser have agreed on a price – so there are no fears of gazumping or eleventh-hour changes of mind. The estate agency profession is strictly

regulated and all property sales are overseen by a government-employed 'notaire'.

"The higher buying costs – estate agency and notaire's fees – are a less welcome difference, however, you get what you pay for and will receive a much more personal service from your French estate agent. As well as holding your hand

and accompanying you on viewings, they will often continue to help you even after you've bought, for example, assisting with utility connections or recommending builders.

"There's help for those worried about the exchange rate too. Specialist currency companies can generally offer a much better deal than high-street banks and there are ways to minimise your risk."

To find out more, the French Property Exhibition at Olympia, London, runs from September 23-25. Entry is free – register online for fast-track tickets or turn up on the day. It's a great opportunity to talk to people who know the French property market, plus there are free seminars covering everything you need to know.

■ For further details see www.fpeolympia.com or www.french-property-news.co.uk.



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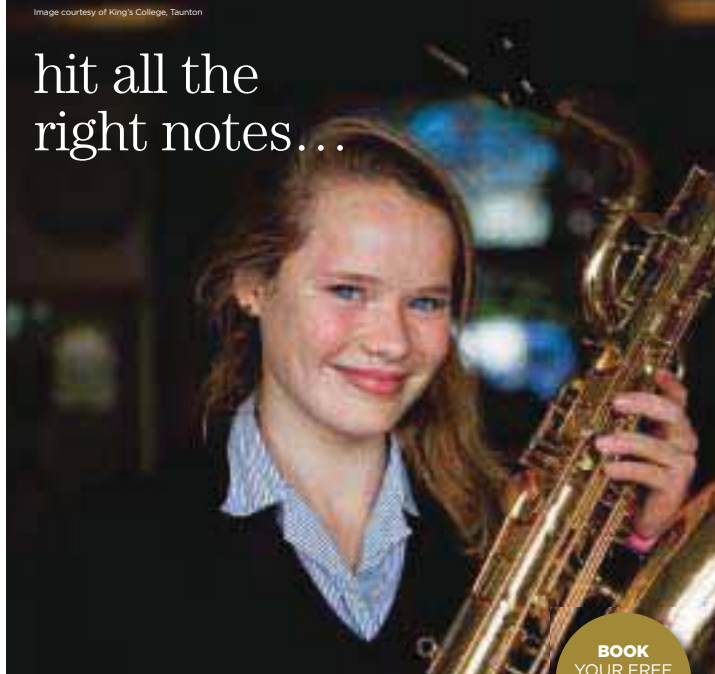
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News

CONSERVATION

Trust chief says badger cull is not answer to bovine TB

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A CONSERVATION charity says poor farming practices rather than badgers are to blame for the spread of TB in cattle.

The Canterbury-based Wildwood Trust is one of a growing number of organisations against Government plans to kill badgers through so-called "controlled shooting", which opponents claim is not supported by sound science.

However, farmers have argued that such a cull is needed to control bovine tuberculosis.

Wildwood Trust chief executive Peter Smith said: "We are coming to the defence of badgers as they are used as a scapegoat by an industrial farming lobby determined to hide poor farming practices."

"A whole generation of farmers and 'country people' have grown up being told badgers are the main problem but have forgotten the basic epidemiological science of bovine tuberculosis.



SCAPEGOAT: Badgers face cull

The farming lobby have found it much easier to blame badgers than address the fundamental problems of cattle farming and the poor practices that have led to the epidemic of TB in the British cattle herd.

"I have a degree in medical biochemistry, and my knowledge of how TB works leads me to agree with leading scientists in the UK who have stated that a badger cull would not reduce the incidence of bovine TB. This leads me to the conclusion that the farming industry is using badgers as an emotional tool to wrestle more taxpayers' money

to subsidise intensive agriculture instead of spending it on protecting our environment."

Last month the Government launched a consultation into a range of proposed measures aimed at tackling the disease.

These include plans for a pilot cull starting next spring in the South West of England, which could then become widespread across the country and throughout rural Kent.

A spokesman for the Tonbridge-based Animal Aid charity said at the time: "Shooting free-running badgers will be a welfare disaster. In defence of fox hunting, many Tory MPs argued that hunting foxes was humane while shooting them as they ran for their lives was cruel. But in order to suit its own agenda, the Government has now argued the exact opposite in relation to badgers."

Last week, Labour launched a campaign against the planned cull and said more money was needed to be spent developing a TB vaccine for cattle.

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WILDLIFE

Thousands of bees head to city centre



IN A BUZZ: Julian Audsley of Canterbury Beekeepers says the two hives on the roof of Whitefriars shopping centre are hopefully just the start of the project to boost bee populations and help educate the public

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MORE than 80,000 bees are to find a home above thousands of people in one of the county's busiest shopping centres.

Two hives have been erected on the roof tops of the Whitefriars shopping complex in Canterbury – with those behind the project hoping to reap the first harvest of honey next May.

Julian Audsley, secretary of Canterbury Beekeepers – which is co-ordinating the project – explained: "Whitefriars is an interesting location and one that presents its own unique set of challenges.

"A roof site is more exposed than a ground level one, with higher temperatures and possibly reduced shelter from wind.

"Whitefriars has installed a water supply and the height won't present a challenge to the bees, as they are used to foraging in high trees.

"All the gardens of the city are in reach, as bees can easily travel a mile and a half, and there is a plentiful supply of nectar from trees, plants and flowers within range, includ-

ing the Dane John Gardens."

The scheme is a prelude to the Canterbury in Bloom initiative by Canterbury City Partnership – a combination of business leaders and councillors designed to promote the city – which runs next year.

Adds Mr Audsley: "The approach from Canterbury City Partnership and Whitefriars was timely, as I was looking for a suitable site for a secure teaching facility for those keeping or planning to keep bees."

Each of the Whitefriars hives will be home to around 40,000 bees in the summer months and 10,000 in the winter.

Mr Audsley said: "We are starting off with two Whitefriars hives, but in due course I'd like to add other types to see how they handle in practice.

"There has been a decline in bee populations in this country due to the varroa mite, as well as a corresponding interest in keeping them.

"The mite has become resistant to the original control methods. However, we are now utilising a range of controls which will help bees to thrive again. This is leading to a re-

vival of interest in bee keeping, and I'm hoping that the new Whitefriars hives will increase local interest still further."

Whitefriars manager Peter Scutt added: "This is the latest in a range of initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and champion green causes. We are delighted to be playing our part in reviving bee keeping in this part of Kent.

"Historical records indicate that monks used to keep bees on this site a thousand years ago when it was home to an austere religious community of Austin, or white friars.

"If all goes well, our new Whitefriars bee colonies will begin to build up in the spring and we should be looking to harvest our first batch of Whitefriars honey in May 2012."



Pictures: PAUL JERRAT

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News

CHARITY

Former Castaway travels to Iraq to help Marsh Arabs

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

HE was once cast away on a remote Scottish island with Ben Fogle in a pioneering BBC reality TV show – but now Mike Laird is attempting to reverse an environmental catastrophe in Iraq.

Inspired by the intrepid adventures of Sir Wilfred Thesiger, the Tunbridge Wells businessman travelled to the marshlands of southern Iraq and was touched by the plight of the Madan people who live there.

Mr Laird, who by day works as a risk manager for a life insurance company, devotes his spare time to charitable projects in some of the world's poorest and most remote places, the latest of which involves the Marsh Arabs.

Their centuries-old way of life was virtually destroyed under Saddam Hussein's regime, when in retaliation for the 1991 Shia uprising, he ordered the wetlands drained and turned to desert.

During the crackdown by Iraqi government forces, villages were bombed as those who took



part in the failed uprising had sought shelter in the remote marshes.

Work has begun to restore the wetland region, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers split into ribbons and lakes before flowing into the Persian Gulf, and which has sustained human communities for five millennia.

Mr Laird, 42, who featured in the BBC's Cast-away programme in 2000, is CEO of the char-

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DEDICATED: Mike is pictured left during a previous charitable project in Morocco. A traditional mudhif is pictured left

ity MarocAroundTheClock and went out to the marshlands in January with his friend and 'fixer', an Iraqi-born British doctor called Sam Balal.

"The Marsh Arabs suffered badly at the hands of Saddam Hussein," he said. "They are descendants of Babylon and Mesopotamia, it is a unique culture. But the ecology has been scuppered.

"When the rivers were dammed, the land dried out and salinated so nothing can grow. It is apocalyptic – farms have turned to desert. It is desperately sad."

Mr Laird said he has wanted to visit the southern wetlands since meeting with Sir Wildred, a famous adventurer and writer who travelled extensively around Africa and lived with the Marsh Arabs between 1950 and 1958, before his death in 2003.

A report by the United Nations Environmental Programme found that about 90 per cent of the 20,000 square kilometres of marshlands were lost because of drainage and upstream damming in "one of the world's greatest environmental disasters".

The task to restore the marshland and reverse what the UN has described as a "catastrophic" impact on wildlife and biodiversity is huge.

Mr Laird has had to choose three projects to focus the resources of his small charity.

Until 1991, the Madan lived traditionally, growing rice and dates, raising water buffalo, fishing and building boats and houses from reeds.

The charity's projects will be centred on the town of Chabayish and Basra children's hospital. Work will begin in October next year and the fundraising target is around £25,000.

"About 10 years ago it was quite a small place," he said. "Then people who had been depopulated from other places identified it as a nice place, not pretty just sympathetic and safe.

"Taunted with death or prison, ethnic groups, particularly the Kurds, were targeted. They felt able to settle in Chabayish and the population exploded. But the infrastructure did not grow at the pace necessary to support all these people. Toilets, water, medical facilities and surfaced roads are needed."

As the displaced Madan return to the area when the marshes are re-flooded, there is also a drive to preserve their culture, bringing back traditional buildings, farming techniques, poetry, music and dance.

One of the charity's projects is to build a traditional mudhif – a building made from a reed called qassab.

"Mudhifs have great cultural significance," Mr Laird said. "They disappeared because a lot of the men went off to fight and did not come back. This loss of skill set means there is a limited group who know how to build them."

He hoped to bring these skills to a new generation of Marsh Arabs through building a mudhif in Chabayish. The building will be used as a community centre as they were traditionally where

the village elder or sheikh would hold meetings and social gatherings.

The second project will be to build much-needed toilets and hand-washing blocks for two schools. Mr Laird hopes people from the UK will take part in these ventures through working holidays.

Finally, the most heart-wrenching of the charity's work will be at the children's hospital in Basra, which saw some of the heaviest fighting in the last Iraq war.

"It is just desperate," Mr Laird said. "It is horrible, there are children with terminal cancers, great big open sores and they live in unpleasant, cramped wards with no pain relief.

"We do not really yet understand what we are going to be able to do there. We will either work with a pharmaceutical firm to provide pain relief

and cancer drugs, or so-called 'soft deliverables' like clean blankets and toys."

Mr Laird launched the charity in 2007 with two friends, David Burton and Gary Tong.

"We started out working in Morocco and people kept coming to us with projects, saying can you help us," he said. "So we took on a project in Senegal and this one in Iraq. I have built up friends and contacts in Iraq because it is an incredibly difficult country to get into.

"I've been to 78 countries, a lot of challenging countries, which would be considered the 'badlands' under a jaunted Western view.

"I've been to Pakistan and Afghanistan and I find Arab or Muslim communities totally endearing. I love being with the people, their culture and food. I find it all very engaging and interesting."

As part of the fundraising efforts, Mr Laird is planning to swim the Channel next July and last weekend he was heading off to the Isle of Wight for a practice open water swim.

He offered some advice for travelling to Iraq, saying: "Bullet proof vests and helmets put a barrier between you and the community. I try and fit in as much as possible, adopting their ways, I grow a beard.

"My safety is something the Iraqis worry about because of the opportunism of capture and ransom.

"They protect me as best they can and I do sensible things like not speak English loudly in the streets, but it does not mean that you can't sit at a roadside café in Basra having coffee."

■ For more information and to donate visit www.marocaroundtheclock.org.

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DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS

Deputy Lieutenant roles for six of the county's greatest

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SIX of Kent's great and good have been named Deputy Lieutenants in recognition of their positive contributions to the county.

Amanda Cottrell, from Challock, near Ashford; Colonel Peter Gilbert, from Rochester; James Loudon, from Wye, near Ashford; Barry Duffield, from Whitstable; The Very Reverend Dr Robert Willis, from Canterbury; and Richard Oldfield, from Doddington, near Sittingbourne, will now all represent the Royal Family at various functions throughout the Garden of England.

The six new deputies were the last to be appointed by former Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett, who retired this week.

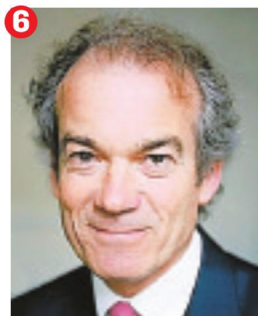
Mr Willett said: "We welcome these new Deputy Lieutenants, whose great depth and variety of experience will be an asset to the Lieutenancy."

"They are joining a network of fine men and women whose role it is to support the monarchy and celebrate Kent and its unique history and culture, serve its communities and contribute positively to its future."

As well as being chairman of Visit Kent, Amanda Cottrell is also a patron of Produced in Kent, a trustee of Canterbury Cathedral and a holder of several other voluntary positions on a variety of organisations across the county.

Colonel Peter Gilbert has been a member of the Territorial Army since the age of 17 and is now Deputy Commander of 2 (South East) Brigade in Shorncliffe, Folkestone, as well as a GP based at Rochester's Thorndike Health Centre.

Businessman James Loudon is currently chairman of



London-based Caledonia Investments but also holds a number of voluntary positions, including with Kent air ambulance and the Caldecott Foundation.

Richard Oldfield is a trustee of the Leeds Castle Foundation and the Canterbury Cathedral Trust, as well as president of Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

The Very Reverend Dr Robert Willis has been Dean of Canterbury since 2001 and is also an Honorary Fellow of Canterbury Christ Church University and of the Guild of Church Musicians, in addition to several other voluntary roles.

Finally, former press and RAF photographer Barry Duffield recently retired from the Kent Army Cadet Force as the head of its media team.

Mr Willett said: "These appointments are important because the modernised Lieutenancy plays a major role as a potent independent force for good in Kent."

"As the monarchy does nationally, our aim is to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others."



ROYAL REPRESENTATIVES: 1) Col Peter Gilbert; 2) Amanda Cottrell; 3) Barry Duffield; 4) James Loudon; 5) The Very Rev Dr Robert Willis; 6) Richard Oldfield

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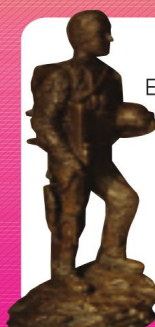
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OPINION

Giving us a brighter future

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne considers the positive impact on the economy of the Pfizer site becoming an Enterprise Zone

LAST week the Government announced that the Discovery Park in Sandwich will form part of a new generation of Enterprise Zones, offering start-up businesses a menu of tempting reasons to create a business and jobs there.

On Wednesday of the same week, I visited Sandwich in person to see firsthand the potential of the site.

The Discovery Park Enterprise Zone will be home to a cluster of research and development activities in the life sciences, from pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to electronics and renewable energy.

The zone capitalises on the highly-skilled workforce that already exists across east Kent, many of whom have experience working in leading ICT, medical technology and advanced manufacturing industries.

The Enterprise Zone is a key part of the Government's pro-

gramme to help areas suffering economic shock.

Earlier this year Pfizer announced that it would be exiting all its activities at Sandwich at a cost of more than 2,000 jobs, and I fully understand this has been a difficult time for many employees affected by this decision.

But we are committed to supporting the area to rebound from this economic loss.

Indeed as a result of the Prime Minister's personal intervention with the Pfizer CEO, 350 jobs will now be retained on site by Pfizer in the pharmaceutical division.

In addition to that, the new Enterprise Zone will bring substantial international attention and investment to more than replace the Pfizer activity, leading directly to the creation of about 2,400 jobs and 190 businesses by 2015.

Firms that set up in the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone

will get a 100 per cent business rate discount worth up to £275,000. They will benefit from radically simpler planning rules so they can get building without excessive bureaucracy and costs.

There will also be Government support to ensure super-fast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone because we want these zones to get off to a flying start, and will support them with initiatives that encourage inward investment.

The competition for Enterprise Zone status was tough, with 30 strong bids and only 11 chosen including the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, which shows you how much promise it has.

This is a perfect demonstration of how the South East Local Enterprise Partnership has brought together local business and civic leaders to take a firm grip of the growth challenge.

I want to pay particu-



6699

Firms that set up in the Discovery Park will get a 100 per cent rate discount

lar tribute to the local MPs, Laura Sandys, Charlie Elphicke and Roger Gale, who fought hard for their area.

This partnership is taking the reins of the local economy and Discovery Park is a key part of that plan for growth.

It means your area will keep any proceeds of this new growth for up to 25 years, so enabling the reinvestment of that money in further plans for growth.

Our national economy depends on investment in local businesses of all sizes so they grow faster. They are on the front line of economic recovery. The new generation of 22 Enterprise Zones we are rolling out will help this country become one of the best places in Europe to start and grow a business.

And from today Sandwich and the wider South East region will be at the heart of that drive for national growth.

KOS COMMENT

Flash cars should be first to be scrapped

PEOPLE have a right to feel angry about top cops travelling around the county in flash cars at the taxpayers' expense.

Although most will understand senior officers require the means to travel at any time, is there really a need for it to be in vehicles most people can only dream of?

With cuts occurring in policing and a loss of 500 police officers in Kent alone, scrapping perks is the obvious way to save money. Surely there are more important things to spend our cash on than Jaguars and BMWs.

Sirens help mermaid retain her attraction

SOME are calling it distasteful, others an hilarious expression of opinion.

But whatever you think of the zany campaign by the Folkestone Urban Sirens, dressing up the Folkestone Mermaid is definitely keeping the spotlight on the town's Triennial. This is surely a positive thing for the previously dwindling seaside resort. Don't they say all publicity is good publicity?

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Adults need care cash too

Any of us, at any time in our lives, might need social care, and the recent Dilnot report on the funding for adult social care brought home an uncomfortable truth: chronic under-funding has left us with a system too broken to support people properly.

Andrew Dilnot is right to say that additional public funding is urgently required.

I am concerned that the media focus is only on older people as this obscures some critical aspects. I believe the report clearly shows that not only can the Government afford to support disabled people of all ages, but crucially as a society we can't afford not to.

It is now up to the Government to fund adult social care so that it gives quality of life to disabled people of all ages. For deaf-blind people good social care means communication and mobility support to do things like getting to the doctor or shop; reading post; travelling to work; visiting family or

friends, not just support with personal care.

Annette Callow, Paddock Wood

We've broken our society

The four-year sentences given to Jordon Blackshaw and Perry Sutcliffe-Jordon (for suggesting a riot on Facebook) is, without doubt, excessive and disproportionate.

I asked myself why were two capable young men aged 20 and 22 able to sit at a computer and, it appears, incite violence and theft, and idly allow the day to drift by without any purpose in their lives.

I asked what has society and the education and employment system failed to incite in these two young men, and many thousands more to achieve, that a moment of insanity on a computer has?

The sentences will do nothing for the young men, even less for society in the long run.

I suspect that these two young men – and no doubt many more – will leave prison even more disillusioned with a society that purports to be fair and caring then they were be-

fore their moment of madness.

We should take a long hard look at what 'we' allow; vandalism of our health service and the elderly, abandonment of our servicemen (after use), mis-use of privilege whether in Government (expenses) or large Government departments paying themselves football transfer fees after being as good as a one-legged man on the pitch.

Society talks about being more caring and doing something about it for 'our' young and disillusioned, but in effect does nothing but talk.

We are told by Government that it has less money to invest in our people and society yet spends millions on overseas development and billions on defence of our society, that at a flick of a computer can be totally torn apart from an armchair.

We really do need to think and ask what is really happening with our young, and ask is prison the real answer to resolve it? I think not.

The only saving grace society has now is that we no longer hang people for theft, we simply hang them out for perpetuity in a life of hopeless-

ness that may in itself be a reaction to their circumstances in the first place, one has only to look at history for examples.

My mum always said people in glass houses should not throw stones because they will break something. We cannot afford to break society. It must be fair and proportionate to all, not just the privileged few.

Ken Little, Whitstable

Our MPs are not worth it

I most certainly agree with Phil Granger's letter in last week's paper. I would not vote for any single MP if they offered me a fortune as none of them are worth it.

There must be some honest, upright, intelligent people in this country who would do a far better job of running this country and it certainly would not cost the fortune this lot do.

They are absolutely mining this country at the expense of the ordinary citizen and could not care less how many people are struggling to survive while they are living in luxury.

Molly Thorogood, Gravesend

Why listen to the Greens?

Of course the green lobby want blanket 20 mph limits across the county; I daresay if they had their way we'd have the unemployed carrying red flags leading processions through our towns at walking pace just to teach the Top Gear rabble a lesson.

Never forget that these are the same people who support the desecration of the Kent countryside and seascape with useless windmills and who won't be satisfied until we are huddled around bonfires because the power has been switched off.

Malcolm Brockman, Loose

Petition the Government

I am writing to congratulate Denise Bottali on the outstanding letter she wrote on the dreadful plight of live exports from Ramsgate.

It breaks one's heart to think people can be so wickedly cruel to young calves, lambs

and other animals. We must stop this evil trade.

After all these years the Government still allows this vile trade, against people's wishes, to exist. I understand that if enough signatures are gathered on a petition then the Government is obliged to hear it in a special sitting. I hope and pray someone will take the necessary steps to organise just such a petition.

I myself would put £1,000 towards the costs providing the matter went before the House of Commons.

A M Black, Whitstable

There's no hope for us

So immigration is still out of control despite all of Mr Cameron's promises.

No surprise there then as he has a string of broken promises following him around as well as some very poor judgements, notably Andy Coulson.

He is also the man who tells us we are better off in Europe and refuses us a referendum on the EU.

To me Mr Cameron is a complete disaster as a leader of our country and it is time his party were rid of him. I would love to have an election, but when you look at the opposition all we would have is another disaster. From the looks of it there is no hope for this country with either of the two main parties in power

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Dive in to this fundraiser

I would like to encourage your readers to take part in Swim22 – Diabetes UK's Channel Swim Pool Challenge.

From August 22 to November 22, the charity is challenging participants to swim the 22 miles it takes to cross the English Channel, but in the convenience of their local swimming pools.

This is a fantastic fundraising event which will appeal to all ages and abilities. It doesn't matter if it takes three months, three weeks or even three days to complete the challenge – it's the taking part that counts.

To sign up to the challenge, contact the Swim22 Team on 020 7424 1868 or email swim22@diabetes.org.uk. For more information visit www.diabetes.org.uk/swim22.

Adrian Moorhouse MBE

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Hit by a pensions double whammy

Q I shall be 65 in September 2014, and I am trying to do some financial planning. I have worked since I was 16 years old so I have already paid about 46 years of national insurance contributions. I believe this is more than enough to qualify for the state pension, so can I stop paying? I also pay into the state second pension scheme. Should I carry on doing this? Finally, I understand the state pension is going to rise to £155 a week in 2015. Is this just the basic pension, or will this include my state second pension?

A I am afraid you have been hit with a double-whammy! Yes, you have already paid enough in national insurance to qualify for the full state pension. All your contributions from now on are just money down the drain, but you are not allowed to stop pouring your money away. If you are under 65, working and earning more than the fairly low national insurance starting point, then by law you must pay national insurance contributions. The closest you can come to sidestepping this would be to go self-employed, if that is possible. But this would only reduce the amount you pay, rather than wipe it out completely. Now for the second disappointment. Plans are still being finalised, but it does seem the government is going to increase the basic state pension from April 2015. The figure being talked about is £140 a week at current prices, but inflation is likely to drive this up to about £155 by the time we get to 2015. However, this is reserved for people who actually reach retirement age after the new rules are introduced. You were born several months too soon. You will already be 65 in 2015, so you will get none of the benefits of the new scheme. If your pension, including the extra you paid for the state second pension, comes to, say, £135 a week, then that is it, unless you qualify for any means-tested benefits. Others will get an extra £20 a week. You won't. And just to rub it in, the length of time people need to pay national insurance contributions to earn a pension has been cut to 30 years – so folk who have paid far less than you will receive far more than you. Should you carry on paying the extra contributions? Yes, as there is not much point in stopping now, and they will give you a better return than any private pension plan.

Q I have £2,000 in savings that I am going to take out of my bank and put into National Savings certificates, because I feel they are safer than the banks. Should I opt for five-year certificates or index-linked? Which offers the best value?

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Barring unforeseen emergencies, I shall not need to withdraw any of the money.

A Index-linked certificates get my vote. They should emerge streets ahead of the fixed-rate five-year certificates. If you hold them to maturity, the fixed rate certificates offer 2.25pc annual interest. Index-linked certificates pay the rate of inflation plus 0.5pc on top. Nobody can predict inflation as far ahead as five years, but as things stand, you will get 5.5pc – since inflation is currently 5pc. It could fall, and interest rates could rise, but both shifts would have to be fairly dramatic for me to change my verdict. The blunt fact is that there is no other savings product on the market that offers inflation proofing, plus a modest real return, plus tax-free status, plus a government guarantee of safety. And I cannot see any rivals emerging in the near future.

Q I retired last year. Now my former employer has asked me to do some book-keeping on a casual basis. Would this affect either my state pension or my occupation pension?

A No. At one time, your state pension could be stopped if you resumed work, but this rule was scrapped years ago. Now, you can earn any amount without hurting either of your pensions. Watch out for income tax, though. Depending on the size of your total income, earnings could even move you into a higher tax bracket.

Q We have a mortgage from a building society that has been facing difficulties. If it is taken over by another society, can the new owners change our mortgage from the current fixed rate?

A Anyone taking over your current lender would have to honour your existing mortgage terms.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. Neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Tax campaign puts focus on plumbers

By Adam Aiken

MyMoney 24 editor

TAX experts are warning that the arrest of five plumbers should be seen as a warning that HM Revenue & Customs is serious about cracking down on people who moonlight or fail to declare their earnings.

Earlier this year, the taxman said it would be focusing on plumbers in its latest disclosure campaign. Previous campaigns had been targeted at doctors, dentists and restaurant owners.

Under the terms of these disclosure schemes, people who come forward and declare unpaid tax can pay a reduced fine – but those who fail to take advantage of the opportunity to pay their dues face being targeted by HMRC.

In the latest case, HMRC wrote to 50,000 people in the plumbing industry, warning them to pay any tax they owed or face big fines. Those who came forward before the May deadline were fined no more than 20pc of the money they owed.

But the taxman is now looking to catch those who did not cough up when they had the chance, and HMRC has mounted a series of raids against plumbers it suspects of owing tax.

Five people have been arrested – in London, Hampshire, Surrey, Middlesex and the West Midlands – and further raids are expected in Kent, Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, the Midlands and Wales. It is thought that some investigations involve unpaid tax bills of up to £150,000.

Gary Ashford, of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, said: "People should not underestimate the



SPOTLIGHT: HMRC is cracking down on tax-dodging plumbers

amount of data that HMRC is holding. What we are now seeing is HMRC starting to use that information. The net is tightening on those who break the law."

Graham Sillett, a tax partner at chartered accountants Lovewell Blake, said: "In the last couple of years, HMRC has adopted a system of offering limited tax amnesties to certain groups – doctors and dentists, plumbers, those with offshore bank accounts – as a way of collecting more tax."

"HMRC is now indicating it will prosecute those who have had an

opportunity to disclose but have not come forward. It would normally build up a picture of an individual through information from informants, advertisements and other sources, and then instigate a tax inquiry before starting a prosecution.

"In extreme cases, it resorts to a raid on premises to obtain further information."

"Anyone who has not already made a disclosure should seek advice from a qualified tax specialist because even now – outside the amnesty period – the penalties will be less by making a voluntary disclosure."

Select few dominate mortgage lending

SIX lenders dominated the 2010 mortgage scene in terms of gross lending, with more than 80pc of all home-loan advances concentrated in the hands of these few providers.

According to a league table published by industry group the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), Lloyds Banking Group – which includes the Halifax and Cheltenham & Gloucester brands as well as Lloyds TSB – was responsible for an estimated £30bn in new lending last year, or 22pc of total mortgage advances.

Santander lent an estimated £24.2bn during 2010, while Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, Nationwide Building Society and HSBC also

made significant loan advances.

Those six lenders collectively advanced £111bn during the year, down from £119bn in 2009.

However, the CML said mid-sized lenders increased both their lending levels and their market share, and in terms of gross lending there were five newcomers to the top 30.

The mid-sized lenders, which ranked from numbers seven to 15 in the table, included names such as ING Direct, Yorkshire Building Society, Co-operative Bank and Northern Rock.

These nine lenders advanced an estimated £19.6bn last year, up from £10bn in 2009. It meant their collective share of new lending rose

from 7pc to 14pc. The CML said this "pointed to the capacity and appetite of the mid-sized lenders to continue to bring diversity to a market that has become highly concentrated among a small number of large providers in the wake of the financial crisis".

The other 15 players in the CML's top 30 accounted for 2.5pc of gross lending, with the remaining 2pc advanced by lenders outside the top 30.

Saffron Building Society, Cambridge Building Society, Market Harborough Building Society, UBS and Aldermore Mortgages were the five lenders who cracked the top 30 for the first time.

THIS week we feature the opportunities for companies to do business outside the UK borders, with the county chamber of commerce leading the way in calling for a greater drive towards exports.

With the national economy moving at a sluggish pace, Kent is ideally situated to enable local firms to take full advantage of selling goods and services to our EU neighbours and beyond.

We also feature companies who are forward-thinking in their work with young people.

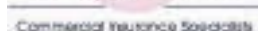
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Chamber calls for export push to lift county economy

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT companies are ideally placed to play a leading role in boosting the UK economy, according to the county's chamber of commerce.

Close links with the Continent mean the export of goods can bring money back into the UK at a time when domestic markets are slow, say experts who are urging the county's business-leaders to grasp the opportunity.

The call to local businesses comes as a new measure of the UK's exporting health, the DHL/BCC Trade Confidence Index, reveals that exporters are showing signs of strength.

However, analysts add that difficult global economic conditions are creating challenges that affect exporters' investment decisions and their desire to take on staff.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "Many Kent businesses are already taking advantage of our favourable position and existing overseas links to build their export potential.

"There is little doubt that exporting will play an increasing role in building our economy,

especially as the domestic market is likely to remain sluggish in the short term.

"There is a huge potential market for all manner of products and services, on our doorstep in Europe and worldwide, and many businesses in Kent have the facility to exploit that market. I urge all business to at least consider how they might be able to do so.

"Exporting, especially for those new to the process, can appear daunting, but problems arising can be easily overcome with advice and guidance, Kent Invicta Chamber has a wide network of contacts and facilities to help companies already exporting and those looking to start."

The index – which draws on a survey of more than a thousand exporters and an analysis of export documentation, required of all UK companies exporting goods outside the EU – suggests that orders and confidence among exporters remain robust.

David Frost, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "There is a disconnect between the strong performance of exporting firms and their lack of confidence when it comes to investing and creating jobs.

"An uncertain economic outlook, with con-



FAR HORIZONS:

Jo James is calling on businesses to develop their export potential, so helping them to move forward

cerns surrounding Eurozone debt and a fragile UK recovery, means many businesses are holding back on investment decisions – despite seeing strong export sales and orders in recent months.

"Cashflow is still a real problem for exporters, particularly smaller firms, and the results show that there are regions of the UK that lag behind when it comes to exporting outside the EU.

"The UK's economic recovery relies on exporting and investment. Government must help British business to have the confidence to export and invest – and ensure that support schemes designed to help new and growing exporters are easy to access and easy to understand."

ENTREPRENEURS

Enterprise clubs to assist new firms

THE newly-branded Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses in Shepway, Dover and Thanet, is launching an initiative in September to help more people become entrepreneurs.

The chamber has joined forces with Job Centre Plus and a host of partners to offer two of the county's first Enterprise Clubs, in Dover and Folkestone.

Meetings are free to attend and will provide an informal networking and support facility for anyone thinking about setting up their own business.

One of the club's main roles will be to signpost would-be entrepreneurs to the appropriate support available, including the New Enterprise Allowance.

Under this scheme, unemployed people qualify for six months' financial support, mentoring and a possible start-up loan of up to £1,000.

Peter Hobbs, Kent Channel Chamber's chief executive, said: "Our clubs will be an opportunity to develop ideas and progress business plans."

EDUCATION



University and industry work in partnership

INTERNATIONAL project development and construction group Skanska has teamed up with the University of Kent to support its new Employability Points Scheme.

The course, which has run since September 2010, has welcomed more than 1,000 students and involved 30 businesses.

Four students were given the chance to go on guided tours of three landmark London projects managed by Skanska.

These were St Bartholomew's Hospital; the 46-storey Heron Tower, the city's tallest skyscraper; and the

neighbouring 'Gherkin' skyscraper.

The undergraduates – law student Matthew Burgess, third-year architecture students Nick Howe and Lee Jesson and Alex Murray, a student of politics, all pictured above – then met company executives to discuss topics ranging from project history to career advice.

The scheme is designed to improve students' employability chances by training them in interview skills and awarding them the opportunity to involve themselves in internships, volunteering and international study.

LEISURE

New jobs created by pub reopening

A £650,000 investment by restaurant and pub company Mitchells & Butler has created 35 new jobs for the Sevenoaks area as The Rose And Crown at Duntun Green reopens.

Employment opportunities include a head chef, sous chef, bar and waiting staff and individuals trained in specialised table service.

A new dining area, which the company says is ideal for special occasions or business meetings, is a recent addition to the newly-refurbished pub.

New landlord Jason Moran said: "We offer a premium eating-out experience in a traditional pub environment."

A pub since the early 1800s, its owners say they were keen to maintain a tasteful restoration while updating the building with a contemporary flair.

Luke Brookes, regional business manager for Vintage Inns, added: "This is a serious commitment by Mitchells & Butler, and our renovations will put the pub back on the dining map."

ROADS

Safety seminar to cut insurance

COMPANY directors and fleet managers are invited to attend a free seminar on how to reduce insurance costs and implement safer driving practices.

Business drivers have collision rates up to 40 per cent higher than those of private drivers, and employers are encouraged to act now to ensure their company isn't the next one affected by the devastating personal and financial consequences of a crash.

Katherine Barrett, communications officer for the Safety Camera Partnership, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to find out more about their duty of care to employees."

The seminar will include presentations from road-safety experts and police covering topics such as the Corporate Manslaughter Act, driver behaviour and managing occupational road risk.

The seminar will take place on Wednesday, October 12, at Maidstone Police College. Places are limited, so businesses are encouraged to book now. To register, employers are asked to email katherine.barrett@kent.gov.uk or phone 07919 212075.

There are two opportunities to catch the seminar: from 10am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 4.30pm.

TRAINING

Awarded for good work experience

CAXTONS chartered surveyors, an independent property practice based in Gravesend but with offices in Gillingham and Canterbury, has received an Outstanding Employer Contribution Award for its work-experience programme.

The business looks to involve placement students in all aspects of its work and offers documentation to help them find full-time work.

The Education Business Partnership has presented the award to the company in recognition of its achievement in this field over the past year.

The business manages some 8,000 commercial and residential properties throughout London and the South East as well as student accommodation in the university towns of Canterbury, Chatham and Greenwich.

The focus offered by the business is on providing the student with a broad insight into the inner workings of how it is run.

Caxtons is currently looking for students to take work experience for October and has already booked two for placements in March and July of next year.

We live in difficult days, but don't cut the marketing, says one man

The BIG Interview

It's never been more important to put your business out there. Daniel Kennedy of Pebble Shores is keen to help you do just that...



DANIEL Kennedy and his creative marketing company Pebble Shores have been part of the Folkestone commercial and cultural renaissance for the last couple of years.

With both local and international clients, the business is run from premises along The Old High Street in the heart of the town's Creative Quarter.

Now Kennedy is working alongside bodies such as the chamber of commerce and Shepway council to bring more like-minded companies into the area as part of a 'business mentoring' project.

"Businesses may start up on gut instinct," said Kennedy. "But there is obviously much more to it if they are to be successful."

"People may have a dream when they start up, but that is not enough to keep the company going. There are so many practical things to take into account – for example, tax."

"Businesses who already understand how some of these important things work should be able to help new companies grow by giving good advice, so bringing more entrepreneurs into Kent and boosting the local economy."

"That is what I am talking to the chamber and the council about."

"Also I am helping to look at what makes people want to come to this area. What are its advantages and what can businesses gain from locating here?"

"There are factors such as tourism and the economy to look at. The aim in the end is simple: to bring more businesses to Kent."

After working in marketing and a variety of other jobs, including as a

chef and wine importer and at Saga, Kennedy established Pebble Shores two years ago. The firm offers marketing and branding for companies of all sizes; it has a main office in Folkestone with a design team in London.

"I am passionate about Folkestone, which is my home town. I was born here but actually grew up on Romney Marsh, which is obviously not far away," he said.

"So this is where I wanted to establish myself. The town has a lot going for it – I love being by the sea – and then there is the Creative Foundation."

"I have enjoyed working with them – they are a real help to businesses. There are also advantages when it comes to things such as the rates."

"Also there are not too many agencies such as mine in east Kent. They are mainly in London, or to the west of the county in Tonbridge and Maidstone."

Among local clients with which Pebble Shores has been working are travel company Buzzlines and the Rocksalt restaurant, which opened this summer in Folkestone and has already attracted rave reviews from foodies.

"Pebble Shores offers companies its expertise in all manner of marketing, right down to business cards," said Kennedy.

"My field is more in the strategic and planning fields, but where necessary I pull in resources for such things as media, design and printing."

"I like to use local people wherever possible. It helps them to get work, for a start, and I always prefer doing business face-to-face rather by phone or email."

A contract with Hilton Hotels led to

one of the company's more far-flung ventures.

Kennedy said: "We had been doing quite a bit with the food and beverage division of the Hilton group, which obviously has hotels all across the world."

"We were invited to pitch for a new hotel in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. We were up against a number of significant agencies but managed to get the contract and we are now looking at similar ones in Europe."

The downturn in the economy is one problem the company has had to weather.

"In hard times there are two things which companies look to when making cuts in their budgets, in my view," said Kennedy.

"One is marketing and the other is staff, but companies still recognise the need to promote themselves. If they do not have the in-house ability and knowledge to do so, that is when a business such as mine can be parachuted in."

"Some businesses will look at the outlay necessary for marketing but will not look at the potential returns exposure can bring. The long-term benefits are something we are able to offer."

The growth in social media and its importance to business is another Pebble Shores area of expertise.

"It has an incredible part to play and it's great because it is so accessible. It is an area that is expanding all the time," said Kennedy.

"But at the same time there is still room in the company marketing budget for a brochure – something tangible that you can hold in your hands."

Port nominated for green-effort award

THE Port of Dover has been short-listed for the Eco Port 2010-11 Award of Excellence.

Since its foundation in 1977, The Institute of Transport Management, which makes the awards, has monitored services and policies relating to all areas of the transport industry.

Stephen O'Farrelly, award liaison officer, said: "One of our core activities is to

recognise excellence in the industry. Dover is clearly leading the way and worthy of this nomination."

The port was awarded The Carbon Trust Standard last year for reducing its carbon emissions by 13.2 per cent and is aiming to reduce this by a further 7 per cent this year.

The port received the Maritime and Coastal Agency's approval in

September for satisfactory disposal of shipping waste.

Port landfill waste was down 18 per cent and in June an oil-spill exercise was completed to test emergency responses.

Using the latest lamp technology to reduce light pollution also means energy costs have been lowered.

The port's management has been working on a five-year process which aims to

reduce energy consumption throughout all areas.

This ranges from encouraging employees to change their daily habits, such as turning off computer screens to finding ways of generating heat and electricity using cooking oil.

Bob Goldfield, chief executive, said: "We are delighted to be short-listed for such a prestigious nomination."

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Continued success allows environment company to expand

SITTINGBOURNE-based Ecologia Environmental, the expert in pioneering land remediation techniques, has just opened a new office in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, the company's fourth office in the UK.

Ecologia has based its headquarters at Kent Science Park since it was founded in 2000 and has established the Yorkshire office as part of its strategy to improve geographical coverage and provide a more efficient service to its existing clients in the region.

The new base will be managed by Leigh Anne Cammack, who has spent several years working as a senior project manager for Ecologia at its KSP headquarters. The company has also employed a new project manager, Michelle Gwynne, at its Stafford office.

However, the company is emphasising that this new area of operations will not detract from the commitment to working in Kent and adds that it is a good opportunity for existing staff to take on new responsibilities and duties.

Managing director Giacomo Maini said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be opening up this new office, which will allow us to offer a significantly improved service to our clients in the north."

"Of course, this doesn't mean our focus is shifting away from Kent – in fact we have just won two major contracts performing a comprehensive geo-environmental site investigation for potential large developments in the county, which we're all extremely excited about."

Firm recognised for 'exceptional support' in training young people

By Nick Ames

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WEB management firm GForces has received an 'outstanding employer contribution' award from the Education Business Partnership (EBP) in Kent for the second year running.

The EBP praised the company for its "exceptional support in assisting the young people of Kent through work experience in the academic year 2010-2011".

GForces, based in Bearsted, set up its training academy with the aim of preparing the county's young people for future roles in the UK's digital economy.

In 2011 it has given work placements to 20 students as well as taking on two interns. The company works closely with local schools and academies as well as Kent Works, an umbrella organisation that encompasses a number of schools in the county and offers pupils work-experience placements.

Anne McNulty, executive director of the Kent EBP, said: "GForces has been very generous in hosting



SUPPORT: GForces has been given an award for 'outstanding employer contribution' to young people

we give, helping us provide a practical and engaging way of developing their skills."

A recent work placement student said: "I came up with PPC keywords, created my own PPC advert, wrote a blog and learnt the importance of SEO and conducted a report on Google. I have enjoyed all of the two weeks and I would never have thought of anything to do with how the internet works until I arrived at GForces."

As a result of ongoing expansion to its offices, GForces now has room to accommodate extra work-placement and work-experience students from schools, colleges and universities.

Smith said: "With such an uncertain job market, we are thrilled to be in a position to create a substantial number of new opportunities for young people."

"The skills these students acquire will undoubtedly be of great value to them and their future employers. We will continue to support the local economy and provide much-needed opportunities to the young people of Kent."

students from around Kent who are interested in IT and considering the sector for their future careers. To have a company share its time and expertise like this is great for the community – they are a leading example among local employers."

Representatives from GForces are also in regular contact with local universities such as the University of Kent and Christ Church University to explore a range of additional placement opportunities while at the same time advising course organisers on how to make their curricula more relevant to the industry.

GForces managing director Giles Smith said: "Investment in Kent's young people is a responsibility we take seriously and we are delighted that our on-site training programme has again been acknowledged so positively."

"Our placement students leave great feedback about the training



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Why there's more to life than university

Students power through holidays

THIRTEEN undergraduates have completed paid summer work with UK Power Networks to gain an insight into a career in power engineering.

The students from a range of degree courses have been working with the electricity network operator during the holidays to gain experience before returning next term.

Among them is 24-year-old Ross Thompson from Gravesend.

He said: "The summer placements have been so useful. It has been really technical this year and it's good to see what we have learned at university being put into practice.

"UK Power Networks is a local business and I'm looking forward to joining the company's graduate programme."

Next year the firm will be launching a new extended work placement and internship programme targeted at universities and colleges within its footprint in London, the South East and East.

In future these opportunities will replace the existing Power Academy scheme.

Award for firm's work experience

CAXTONS Chartered Surveyors has picked up an award for the quality of its work experience programme.

The Gravesend-based firm, which also has offices in Gillingham and Canterbury, was recognised by the Education Business Partnership for its "exceptional support in assisting the young people of Kent".

Caxtons' human resources manager Debbie Lee said: "We pride ourselves on ensuring work experience students don't get stuck with boring jobs like filing and stuffing envelopes. We try hard to make sure each student leaves us with a good and broad insight into how the business works.

"For instance, we carry out an appraisal where both we and the students can comment on how their work experience has gone while at Caxtons. The students take these back to school with them and add them to their CVs.

"We are doing our best to make a significant contribution in this area so it's nice to know our efforts are appreciated."

By Steve Knight

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THE Association of Accounting Technicians is urging young people to consider alternative routes into their chosen careers and look beyond university.

Last week students across Kent and the rest of the UK faced a mad scramble to find a university place due to increased competition ahead of next year's tuition fee increases.

And recent research commissioned by the AAT estimates that 55 per cent of this year's graduates are expected to be either unemployed or underemployed in jobs for which a degree is not necessary.

Kent County Council apprentice Lisa Elsworth, from Ramsgate, is currently studying for an accounting qualification through the organisation.

She said: "At the time it was a little daunting as all my friends were applying to university and I was seeking an alternative route into my chosen career.

"However, I now know it was definitely the right choice. I've almost finished my AAT qualification as I'm on the final level and I've been with my current employer for two years."

In the areas of the UK hardest hit by unemployment, more than a quarter of all recent graduates were still struggling to find work six months after graduating.

According to the Office for National Statistics, this applies to 19 per cent of graduates in the South East.

AAT chief executive Jane Scott Paul said: "No longer should we push young people into university thinking it's the right choice when there is little or no discussion about the other viable and alternative routes

out there.

"In recent years, the reality of graduating with large debts into a saturated job market means a degree can no longer be considered a passport to success.

"With the average student debt estimated at £27,000 for a three-year degree course and set to rise to £45,000 in 2012, we have to ask young people if this is a good return on investment if there is no guaranteed job prospect at the end of it.

"The reality is a large majority of graduates are coming out of university and are ending up in menial and low-skilled jobs for which a degree is not necessary."

The AAT was established in 1980 to provide a recognised qualification and membership body for accounting technicians.

With 120,000 members, the charity awards more than 30,000 qualifications a year and is sponsored and supported by four of the UK's chartered accountancy bodies.

Mrs Scott Paul said: "We have to change mindsets and actively encourage young people to look into high-end vocational qualifications, gaining on-the-job training through apprenticeships and getting skills employers actually want and value.

"In the case of accountancy, those who study and qualify with AAT can become chartered accountants more quickly than those with a degree."



What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

OPTIONS: The AAT says university is not the be-all and end-all for school leavers

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Students reap rewards for positive approach to employability training

PROJECT development company Skanska played host to four students as a reward for their efforts in the University of Kent's employability points scheme.

Law student Matthew Burgess, politics student Alex Murray, and architecture students Nick Howe and Lee Jesson were given tours of three landmark London projects managed by the firm – St Bart's Hospital, the Heron Tower and the Gherkin – and

also received careers advice from three senior company executives.

The employability points scheme is designed to reward student engagement in employability skills training such as interview skills and careers seminars, as well as wider experience such as part-time work, internships, volunteering and international study.

Senior enterprise manager Stephanie Barwick said: "Our employability points scheme

is innovative in that it bridges the gap between offering students a way to enhance their own employability and providing employers with easy access to some of our most outstanding students.

"The pilot has proved this is a win-win solution for both students and employers. We will now be making this scheme a permanent part of our portfolio of student employability opportunities here at Kent."

Generosity of ex-student to fund bursary

MECHANICAL engineering students at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus will benefit from a £390,000 legacy left by a former student.

William Hills, who died last year, studied at the old Woolwich Polytechnic until 1948 and kept in touch with the institution after it became part of the university.

The gift is Greenwich's largest ever from an individual donor and will be used to fund a new bursary scheme for mechanical engineering students. First taught at Woolwich in 1891, the subject remains an important part of the university's curriculum but is now covered by the School of Engineering at its Medway campus in Chatham Maritime.

Head of alumni and development Mark Hainy said: "Mr Hills carried warm memories of his time at Woolwich Polytechnic throughout his life.

"He greatly enjoyed his studies there and was also a keen rugby player. We understand this is why he decided to become one of an increasing number of people who remember a charity in their wills, leaving this extraordinarily generous legacy to the university."

The School of Engineering is organised as four departments – civil engineering, engineering systems, computer and communications engineering, and business and information technology management – offering a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in traditional and information age



LEGACY: Money will help engineering students

engineering.

In addition to mechanical engineering these also include civil engineering, marine engineering, computer networking and more.

Professor Ndy Ekere, dean of the School of Engineering, added: "The staff and students here are all very grateful to Mr Hills. Through his very kind gift, his passion for engineering education will live on, benefiting students for many years to come."

Visit www.gre.ac.uk/schools/engineering or call 020 8331 9000 for more information.

First class degree for hairdresser who took the online learning route

A TONBRIDGE woman is celebrating being the first person to earn a first class degree for an online hairdressing course from the University of Derby.

Deborah Webb, 42, enrolled on the course because she wanted to improve her skills while continuing to earn a wage.

She said: "Derby was the only university I found to offer a programme like this online. Online study suited me best as I had to fit it around work and

my commitments.

"It's been a really good experience but certainly difficult at times. It's taken a lot of self-motivation to get down to study as well as working full-time, but to achieve a first class honours degree has made it all worth it."

Almost 150 students have graduated from the university's online undergraduate degree programmes since they were established in 2005.

Both Deborah and another

online success story – Heidi Thorne, 35, from Oxfordshire – will receive their degrees at an awards ceremony in the Peak District later this year.

Julia Stone, head of the University of Derby Online, said: "We are delighted to share in Deborah and Heidi's success.

"They prove what can be achieved through this kind of flexible learning and we hope they both go on to experience great success in their careers."

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Infection Control	15 September	½ day	£40
Welcome Host	19 September	1 day	£90
Managing People & Teams	20 September	½ day	£50
CIEH Healthier Food & Special Diets	26 September	1 day	£80
Understanding the Management Role	27 September	½ day	£50
Paediatric First Aid	28 September	2 days	£105
Behaviour Management	28 September	½ day	£40
ILM Award in First Line Management	30 September	5 days	£795
OCTOBER 2011			
First Aid at Work Refresher	3 October	2 days	£105
Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Introduction)	5 October	½ day	£40
Managing for Efficiency and Effectiveness	11 October	½ day	£50
CIEH Award in Food Safety in Catering	12 October	1 day	£80
Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Effective Strategies)	12 October	½ day	£40
NCFE Award in Substance Misuse Level 1	13 October	1 day	£55
Conflict Management	18 October	½ day	£50
Planning and Implementing Change	25 October	½ day	£50
CIEH Health and Safety	26 October	1 day	£80
CIEH Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	31 October	3 days	£280

For further information please contact:
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St Margaret's Nursing Home

We are a reputable nursing home,
adjacent to Hythe Canal.

One full time qualified RGN

Required for 25 bed home.
Subject to POVA CRB check.

Please contact Anna on **01303 267557**

Email: asastmargarets@aol.com



**KENT & EAST SUSSEX
RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED**

VACANCY

Company Accountant

The Kent & East Sussex Railway is a heritage steam railway operating between Tenterden and Bodiam. We are a major tourist attraction with around 100,000 visitors p.a. The company is a registered charity with an annual turnover of over £1.7m, a small salaried workforce and about 500 volunteers.

Due to retirement, the Trustees are seeking to recruit a Company Accountant. The position is for three days a week, plus a monthly weekend day to attend the Company's Board meetings. The ideal applicant will be a qualified accountant, well versed in the preparation of monthly and annual accounts, familiar with Sage Accounting, Payroll, VAT and Gift Aid and will be able to liaise with the Company's Bankers and Auditors.

Please apply in writing to Graham Baldwin, General Manager,
The Kent & East Sussex Railway Company Ltd,
Tenterden Town Station, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HE,
with a detailed curriculum vitae and a covering letter
indicating how you meet our job specification.

Closing date for applications: 8th September 2011



Do you have a space in your family for one of
our children?

We are currently recruiting people from all
backgrounds to provide a safe and secure home for
children of all ages who are not able to live
with their own families.

Do you have:

- A good sense of humour
- Optimism
- Lots of patience
- Resilience
- A spare room

In return we offer you:

- The opportunity to make a real difference to a child's life
- Ongoing support from our committed and experienced staff team
- Training opportunities including NVQ 3 in Children & Young People
- Financial reward and maintenance of £415 per week

Please call 01227 283 696

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good prospects with full
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- Competitive rates of pay
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- Weekend and morning hours available
- Free training to HSC Level 2 Diploma
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

CL Fabrications

Workshop Foreman - To oversee the busy workshop, applicants need to be self motivated, have good man management skills and experience of structural steelwork and architectural metalwork. Must be able to work from engineering drawings. Experience in stainless and aluminium would be an advantage.

Good rates of pay and overtime available.

Apply in writing to the following address,
fax or e-mail:

CL Fabrications Ltd
Buildings 95/96 Gillingham Gate, Chatham Docks,
Chatham, Kent ME4 4SW

Email: ian@clfabs.co.uk
Telephone: 01634 819787
Fax: 01634 891809
Web site: www.clfabs.co.uk



Douglas - Westwood

Researchers - Canterbury

Leading international energy business advisors Douglas-Westwood seek researchers. You would work as part of a small team to assist with the production of commissioned and published market studies of a variety of energy sectors, primarily within upstream oil & gas. You would conduct primary and secondary research on markets and companies, the outputs of which are used to develop market models to analyse supply, demand, pricing and investment trends for clients worldwide. The work involves the collation, examination and checking of data through internet research and telephone communication with industry participants. We require an enthusiastic and dedicated temperament and preferably a numerical-based background. Excellent analytical, written and verbal communication skills are essential and previous educational or professional experience within the energy industry is advantageous but not essential.

- Knowledge of Excel and importantly, formulae and data manipulation
- Mathematically minded – logical thinking and problem solving ability essential
- Access database knowledge preferable but not essential
- Fluent writing ability in the English language
- Multiple languages are an advantage

Applications and CVs to recruitment@douglaswestwood.com

Faversham Residential Home

Care Assistant Require A Domestic Assistant

To Work The Hours 9am-2pm
Subject To CRB Approval

For Further Information Please Contact
01795 532629 Between 10am-4pm



Charlier Construction Ltd

CARPENTER

Qualified carpenter required immediately. Must have sound working knowledge of trade and able to produce consistently high quality finish. Own transport. CSCS card holders will have an advantage.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

Applications: Charlier Construction Ltd
8-12 Stade Street Hythe Kent CT21 6BE
Further information: 01303 268211

Experienced Cook (maternity cover) and 2 Night Staff

Required At
Care Home in Deal

For more information please call
The Deputy Manager On
01304 372312

Ground Workers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, Passport & visa must be provided.

Call 01277 810777

Drain Layers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, passport & visa must be provided.

Call 01277 810777



The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Medical Secretary - Flexi Bank (Margate)

Closing date for applications - 14th September 2011

Qualifications
Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent)

Two years experience working in a medical environment

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:

**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital,
Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG**

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

Children's Home- Residential Care Workers

LCS Ltd is recruiting for dynamic and experienced **Residential Care Workers** and **Assistant Managers** in our homes in Kent and Margate.

Ideal candidates (RCW) will have:

- Proven experience, working with young people who display challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties.
- An NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care- Caring for Children and Young People or be willing to work towards.
- Robust, Resilient and Reliable characteristics.
- High motivation, with a good level of flexibility.
- The ability to cope with and remain calm in very challenging and demanding situations.
- Excellent communication skills as you will be liaising with Social Workers, Clinicians, Police, Families, OFSTED and other professionals dealing with Looked After Children.
- A full UK Driving License.

Ideal candidates (Assistant Manager) will have:

- Detailed knowledge of relevant childcare legislation and Care Standards.
- Thorough knowledge of Ofsted Regulations.
- Strong leadership, management and communication skills.
- NVQ 4.

Shift work over 40 hours + 2 sleep-ins per week, therefore a high level of flexibility is required.

In return for your skills and knowledge you will receive a competitive salary, excellent holidays and paid continuous training and development.

All positions are subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. Expense will be met by the employer.

For all enquiries please contact Amanda Manning on 01304 379280.



Care Assistant

required for Cumbria House Care Home.

Must be flexible as will be expected to work day and night shifts.

24 hours per week minimum.

Post is subject to Criminal Record Checks.

Please contact Julia or Cathy on **01303 254019** for more information.



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OEE—the sky's the limit! Unlimited earning potential for experienced sales closers.
Affinity Energy is urgently seeking professional sales executives to join their expanding and highly reputable team across the South East.
Solar sales experience preferred, although a proven track record in sales is acceptable. Unlimited earning potential for experienced sales closers. We provide excellent support and the backing of an aggressive marketing campaign.
Please email a CV with a covering letter outlining your experience to: phandy@affinitus.co.uk
Or contact: 0800 007955 844555
Affinitus Energy, where the power of nature is harnessed for the good of the planet.
www.affinitusenergy.co.uk

Sub Contractors, Painters Required

For External Paint Job Must Be Self Sufficient With Own Tools, Transport & Insurance

Contact 07786000200

Aerial Satellite Engineer

Clear Picture are looking to recruit aerial/satellite engineers to work full time within their small dedicated team.

They are currently expanding their commercial operation and thus you will need to have a good understanding of IRS.

Full clean driver's license is essential.

Send applications along with your CV to **recruitment@clear-picture.co.uk**

Faversham Residential Home Care Assistant Required

For Full Time To Work On Rota Basis

Subject To CRB Approval

For Further Information Please Contact

01795 532629

Between 10am-4pm



Due to continued expansion GSE Construction Ltd requires enthusiastic and motivated **Site Managers** with experience of both traditional and design & build projects. Candidate must be able to demonstrate that they have a proven track record showing the ability to deliver projects to deadline, within budget, and to the satisfaction of the client.
Excellent remuneration package for the right candidates.
To apply please submit your application and CV in writing to:
Mrs Sue Whittaker GSE Group,
The Mews, Princes Parade, Hythe CT21 6AQ
or alternatively email: sue.whittaker@gse-group.com
Closing date for applications is **9th September 2011**
GSE construction Ltd is an equal opportunities employer

Drivers Required

Class 1 contracts in East Kent,

Mid Kent and North Kent.

From £9.00 - £13.00 per hour

- Full and Part-time hours available

Class 2 shifts available in North-Kent

early starts from £8.00 - £9.00 per hour

Must have minimum 2 years appropriate licence, no more than 6 points (No DDs/DR's or INT0's)

Telephone **Steve on 08452 725271** or email **info@direct2traderecruit.co.uk**

direct2trade
recruitment



Pilgrims Corner Group require enthusiastic and motivated Residential Care Staff, capable of undertaking service identification and delivery in meeting the ongoing welfare and developmental needs of up to 12 dynamic young people. You must have a minimum of 12 months proven residential work experience with young people and knowledge of the Autistic Spectrum is useful.

As a professional team group member you must as an individual be: reliable, motivated and committed to our development of expanding services for young people.

We provide ongoing training and support, regular individual quality supervision and we encourage and support positive practice.

You will need to be flexible and able to work hours on a rota system, including evenings, weekends, bank holidays, plus sleep-in duties. It is a requirement that you hold a full current driving licence.

Posts available:

Senior Residential Support Workers
Bank Staff

For an application form please contact:
Harry Deering (Operations Manager)
Tel: 01227 370808
Email: admin@pilgrimscorner.co.uk

Pilgrims Corner expects all of its employees to have full commitment to the Equal Opportunities Policy and acceptance of personal responsibility for its practical applicants. All employees are required to comply with and promote the policy to ensure that discrimination is eliminated.

Cole Ironcraft Limited AutoCad Design Draughtsman

Local Metalworks Fabrication Company requires an experienced AutoCad Design Draughtsman.

Structural and Architectural steelwork experience

essential along with ability to site survey.

It is important to be able to work as part of a small

team with an ability to discuss everyday projects

within the company, liaise closely with the Works

Manager on drawings and be able to converse

confidently and have clear discussions with clients,

architects and engineers.

A permanent position offering good future prospects to the right candidate

Salary: £25k

20 days Holiday plus statutory days

Please apply in writing or via email

with CV and Covering Letter to:

David Richardson

Email: drrichardson@coleironcraft.co.uk

Cole Ironcraft Limited

Ashford Road, Bethersden, Kent, TN26 3AT



Class 1 Drivers Urgently Required

- Regular on-going local work
- Various shifts
- Pay rates £10-£17 per hour

Contact Go Recruit on **01622 690555** or **07921 913034** for an interview and assessment

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe

zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk

01233 619530



ARCHANT } **KOS MEDIA**

KCA (UK) is a dynamic and innovative organisation providing a wide range of high quality specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Both posts are full-time.

Community Drugs Worker

£19,126 – £23,708 • Based Sittingbourne • Ref 801

An opportunity has arisen within East Kent KCA Services for a Community Drugs Worker. Could you help chaotic drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles leading to recovery? It is a big challenge that will see you work within a multi-disciplinary team as you deliver assessments, key worker support and harm reduction interventions to people accessing KCA's adult substance misuse services.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems and a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area i.e. nursing, counselling or social work is essential. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future.

It is an exciting time to join KCA's substance misuse services with many new challenges ahead. Both local and national policy is moving in a new and interesting direction so you will need to be adaptable and enthusiastic for change and the challenges that this will bring.

For further information regarding this role, please call Linda Ranger, Area Manager KCA (UK) on 01795 439409 or lranger@kca.org.uk

Project Worker Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR)

£21,519 – £26,276 • Based Canterbury • Ref 802

Working as part of the Horizon team, you will be required to take a leading role in the planning and delivery of a structured holistic programme for service users with alcohol problems. This includes group work, 1:1 counselling sessions, skills training and complementary therapies. Working alongside the Probation Service you will be responsible for the initial assessment of ATR Service Users. You will need a diploma in counselling and group work experience, preferably in the drug and alcohol field. Knowledge of the Criminal Justice System is desirable.

Applications and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote the relevant reference number in your application.

Closing date for both posts: 11 September 2011.

Interview date for Community Drugs Worker: 6 October 2011.

Interview date for Project Worker: 20 September 2011.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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The regional press is the best medium to use when looking for local people for local jobs.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2006



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Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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(Age) Committed to equal opportunities

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01303 817040



Westlands Academies Trust



THE WESTLANDS SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 1PF

**LESSON
SUPERVISOR**
Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471
(pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766
depending on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of
classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form
tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require
good classroom management skills as well as a
confident personality, a good presence and excellent
communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to
further education level, and have experience of giving
support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching
Assistant, although other qualifications and
personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-
service training course. There will be a six-month
probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term
time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid
holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a
similar post.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or
online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an
application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 31 August 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding
and promoting the welfare of children and young people and
expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA



Westlands Academies Trust
Company No 7344732



To advertise in this section

Call 01303 817150

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Production Arts

Ref: P0510

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Medway Campus

We are seeking an experienced and knowledgeable Lecturer to join our Production Arts department. The successful candidate will have an all-round knowledge of the technical elements of theatre and experience of teaching lighting and sound to students in Further or Higher Education. Teaching on our Level 3 Production Arts pathway, they will contribute fully to departmental productions and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants

Ref: LSA01

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour Variable hours (minimum 15 hours per week)
Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 2 September 2011

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

INTEGRATION CURRICULUM LEADER

37 hours per week, all year Salary: £29,413 - £34,817

To lead and develop policy and practice for coherent 16 to 19 and alternative curriculum progression pathways across the College.

LECTURER IN SPORT

18.5 hours per week, all year Salary: £12,795 - £15,103

To raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Programme Area.

SYSTEMS ANALYST/DEVELOPER

37 hours per week, all year Salary: £22,289 - £26,408

To maintain, support and develop reporting systems within the college.

SKILLS PRACTITIONER MOTOR VEHICLE

18.5 hours per week, all year Salary: £8,567 - £10,123

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Closing date: 7 September 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: COMP-1

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**



Northfleet
School for Girls

An exciting opportunity has been created for an Enterprise & Learning Centre Co-Ordinator

**37 hours per week
Mainly Term Time only but with a flexible
approach to hours
Kent Scheme Grade 7/8 - £17,098/£19,453 p.a.
(£20,263/£23,054 fte)**

This is an innovative and hands-on role promoting high quality enterprise through all aspects of the school (students, staff and the wider community).

As well as being responsible for the day to day delivery of all aspects of running the Learning Resource Centre (including the School Library), the role will involve

- Promoting literacy
 - Supporting numeracy, media and ICT skills focused projects
 - Creating and producing relevant resources and activities that motivate, engage and advance learning
 - Organising courses (day and evening) for the community
- Recently qualified Graduates with relevant degree subjects will be considered.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Personnel at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 7 September 2011

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A GRADUATE WITH A SUITABLE DEGREE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR

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your notice
here
call the
Kent Public
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team on

01303 817044

To place your notice here call the Kent Public
Notice team on **01303 817044**

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Miss Julie Topping, Realm Park, Barden Road, Bidborough to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Mulberry Tree, Hermitage Lane, Boughton Monchelsea**

Applicant: **Karen Williams**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Marlowe Theatre, The Friars, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Paula Gillespie**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Reads Restaurant, Macknade Manor, Canterbury Road, Faversham**

Applicant: **Mrs Rona Pitchford**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Langley Hotel, 18-20 London Road, Tonbridge**

Applicant: **Mr Rakesh Wadhwa**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hilton Maidstone, Bearsted Road, Weaving, Maidstone**
Applicant: **Mr Leonardo Gagliano**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



PROW - BOROUGH OF ASHFORD**NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE662, BRABOURNE) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

The above Order was made on 3rd August 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 1.0 metre which commences on Church Road opposite the Primary School and runs generally north-westwards for approximately 412.2 metres to its connection with public footpath AE285.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to MRS MARIA MC LAUCHLAN at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 3rd October 2011. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - CITY OF CANTERBURY**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAYS CB199 AND CB202****IN THE PARISH OF ADISHAM****BYWAYS CB199 AND CB202****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Byways CB199 and CB202 to all traffic from 11th September 2011

CB199 will be closed from Woodlands Road to its junction with CB202 a distance of approximately 1200 metres

Byway CB202 will be closed to vehicular traffic (other than cycles) between The Street and Adisham Road a distance of approximately 1850 metres

Safe alternative provision will be made for non-vehicular traffic and cycles around working areas, where possible.

The highways will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The highways are to be closed because works are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - DISTRICT OF DOVER**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER64****IN THE PARISH OF WHITFIELD****(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER64)****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ER64 between Sandwich Road and The

Drove from the 15th August 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path will be closed because of planned works on the footpath and the likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Denise Roffey

PROW - DISTRICTS OF DOVER AND SHEPWAY**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BYWAY HE30 / ER146****IN THE PARISHES OF DENTON WITH WOOTTON AND ELHAM****(PUBLIC BYWAY HE30 / ER146)****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Byway HE30 / ER146 from Reece Lane to Snode Hill from 15th August 2011.

Pedestrian access will be available from Snode Hill to Public Footpath ER130 at Gatteridge Farm

The route will be closed for 6 months or until the said works are complete.

The route will be closed for the construction of a new water pumping station and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Denne

PROW - BOROUGH OF SWALE**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT****HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 25****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT****RELATING TO LAND ALONGSIDE THE SEAFRONT AND AT NEPTUNE TERRACE, SHEERNESS**

The above named Agreement, made on 21 June 2011 under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, has been made by the Kent County Council. The effect of the Agreement is to:

- upgrade the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered ZSX46 which commences at the end of a private path leading from the superstore and runs in a north-westerly direction for 28 metres. It then turns sharp right to head in a north-easterly direction for 30.5 metres where it joins the top of the flood defence wall and connects to Public Footpath ZSX47. This part of ZSX46 is to be renumbered as part of ZSX47;
- upgrade public footpath ZSX47 which commences at its connection with footpath ZSX46 and runs in a south-easterly direction for 327 metres to its connection with Restricted Byway ZSX48;
- add a new length of restricted byway numbered ZSX90 with a width of 3.0 metres which commences at the end of Restricted Byway ZSX48 and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 508 metres to the steps adjacent to Neptune Terrace.

All distances approximate, all directions general.

A copy of the Public Path Creation Agreement and accompanying plans have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Kent County Council's Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies may also be purchased there.

Under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, there is no right of an objection and the Agreement has taken immediate effect.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 28th August 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/11/01060/FUL: **The Masonic Library and Museum, St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2BG** Partial replacement of boundary wall with gates and piers. **Applicant: Masonic Province East Kent** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01314/FUL: **4 Bramley Gardens, Herne, CT6 7DS** Replacement uPVC windows. **Applicant: Mr Belle** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01354/FUL: **Hillcrest Cottage, Hoath Road, Hoath, CT3 4JR** Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling and replacement outbuilding. **Applicant: Mr Lilley** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01361/ADV: **117 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SE** Replacement windows. **Applicant: Mr Toman** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01367/ADV: **9 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JP** Illuminated and non illuminated signage. **Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01368/FUL: **25 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, CT2 8AX** Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling incorporating dormer windows to side and rear elevations. **Applicant: Dr Henry** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01373/FUL: **Old Post Cottage, Church Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HX** Two-storey side and rear extension, erection of detached garage and erection of 1.8m high boundary wall. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr Rees** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01397/FUL: **The Mallards, Hardes Court Road, Lower Hardes, CT4 5NU** Roof alterations to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Michael Pick** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01398/FUL: **The Coach House, Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW** Single-storey extension to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms P McCaldin** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01403/ADV: **12-13 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JE** Non-illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Crew Clothing Co** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/11/01408/LB: **94/96 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5LB** External and internal alterations and extensions in association with the conversion to two residential units and retention of retail unit. **Applicant: G & G Developments** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 19 September 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 26 August 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/02266/FUL **Broadfield Gate Farm Road, Bidborough**
- Change of use of land to create access drive to granary and barn conversion (LB)
- 11/02417/HOUSE **Old College House 4 Broadwater Down, Broadwater**
- Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of orangery (CA)
- 11/02406/LBC **Old Cloth Hall Course Horn Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations (LB)
- 11/02436/FUL **Plummers Farm Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Demolition of part of redundant building and hardstanding, and conversion of remaining part into a live-work unit with associated landscape proposals (CA)
- 11/02237/FUL **Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Christian Centre, Culverden**
- Glazed panelled toughened glass window to front elevation (CA) (LB)
- 11/02440/FUL **Sladen Chambers 9 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden**
- Change of use from office space to D2 personal training studio (CA)
- 11/02291/LBC **Three Chimneys Farmhouse Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion and extension of brick and tile barn/stable to dwelling (LB)
- 11/02090/LBC **Rowan Cottage Attwaters Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of existing canopy, removal of existing chimney liner only and replacement with new, placement of log burner into existing fireplace, removal of existing chimney cowl and replacement with new (LB)
- 11/02431/FUL **Westfield Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use of existing garden room/summer house building to provide small venue hosting workshops and courses (D2 use) (LB)
- 11/02363/FUL **Whisketts Farm Hastings Road, Lamberhurst**
- Installation of free standing solar tracking system and 16 solar PV panels on field east of Whisketts Farmhouse (LB)
- 11/02428/FUL **Mill Oak Oast Mascalles Court Lane, Paddock Wood**
- Construction of new two-bay garage and store room (LB)
- 11/02429/LBC **Mill Oak Oast Mascalles Court Lane, Paddock Wood**
- Listed Building Consent - Construction of new two-bay garage and store room (LB)
- 11/02388/FUL **61 & 61 Basement Flat Frant Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from C1 Guest House and basement flat to one C3 residential dwelling (CA)
- 11/02419/HOUSE **57 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Part demolition of ground floor and roof to chalet bungalow; Construction of rear extension; Raise end walls and extend roof (CA)
- 11/01714/LBC **40 - 44 Henwood Green Road Pembury, Pembury**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of drylining, reinstatement of wainscot and reinstatement of fire surround and mantelshelf in front room. Replacement of window, installation of drylining and central heating flue in kitchen (LB)
- 11/02450/TELN5 **BT Openreach Telecommunications Cabinet Outside Spa Hotel, Rusthall**
- Telecommunications Notification: Installation of broadband cabinet within the public highway (CA)
- 11/02325/FUL **19B London Road Southborough, Southborough North**
- Change of use of land in front of house to residential curtilage; Internal alterations and installation of roof windows (CA) (LB)
- 11/02327/LBC **19B London Road Southborough, Southborough North**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations and installation of roof windows (LB)
- 11/02390/HOUSE **Porters Ashurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Single storey extension to provide annex for dependant relative (LB)
- (DE/PLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)
Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 27 August 2011



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on **01303 817044**

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0807/S - NORTH VIEW OAST, FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0HJ - Retrospective application for change of use of land to garden area, creation of hardstanding for parking, creation of access to Forge Lane, and erection of fencing and gates. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1174/S - 4, CHURCH HILL COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AX - An application for listed building consent to strip and retile roof, form opening through tiled and plasterboard lined roof and insert a dormer window to front elevation and installation of wood burning stove in lounge with metal flue in existing chimney. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1193/N - 3, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, ME17 2QH - Change of use of dwelling from C3 to D1 to operate as a Chiropody Surgery. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1266/N - WHITFIELD, BOARLEY LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3BU - Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1290/S - 1, BOWER MOUNT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8AX - Retention and refurbishment of main building and construction of two storey extension to accommodate medical practice, retail pharmacy and ancillary accommodation and associated works including additional surface treatment and parking areas. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than 11th September 2011, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated: 28th August 2011**



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/AS/0367/2011 - Proposed development at
Goat Lees School site between Hurst Road and
Guernsey Way, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9PS**

Kent County Council Capital & Premises are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the erection of a new 1FE Primary School including school building, outdoor recreational and learning areas, planted and hard surfaced areas including pedestrian and vehicular access/parking. The development site adjoins/affects a Public Right of Way.

You may view this application at the following locations: -

- a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
- b) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford
- c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 28 August 2011



**To place your notice
here call the
Kent Public Notice
team on
01303 817044**

Notice of an Application for the grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Downsview Guest House has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE for supply of alcohol 1100 hours to 2400 hours 7 days a week. Also late night refreshments from 2300 hours to 0100 hours for non residents and 2400 hours per day for residents for alcohol and late night refreshments for the premises Downsview Guest House situated at Willesborough Road, Ashford, Kent. TN24 9QP A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 22/09/2011

Dated this Wednesday 24th day of August 2011

Signed: S K Leavey

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

NOTES:

- a) Full name of applicant or club
- b) In the case of an application for a new Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate insert a statement of the relevant licensing activities or relevant qualifying Club activities which it is proposed to be carried from the premises. In the case of application to vary, provide details of the proposed variation
- c) Name of premises
- d) Address of premises
- e) The last date for representations should be written in the format dd/mm/yyyy and calculated as 28 days from the date on which the notice is displayed.

Starting on the day after the day on which the application was submitted, this notice must be displayed prominently at or on the premises so that it can be conveniently read from the exterior on the premises for 28 consecutive days.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Apple Logistics Limited trading as Apple Logistics Limited of Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 OHQ. is applying for licence to use Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 OHQ as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers. Owners of occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



Maidstone Borough Council

CORE STRATEGY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTATION (REGULATION 25)

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2004, AS AMENDED BY THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2008

Maidstone Borough Council has prepared the [informal] Public Participation stage of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD). The document has been published for public consultation as part of the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy covers the Borough of Maidstone and sets out the spatial strategy for the area until 2026. It is the council's principal planning document.

The Core Strategy DPD can be viewed and downloaded from the council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk and is available for inspection at: Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ.

The offices are open Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. Copies will also be available at all libraries in Maidstone Borough during normal opening hours.

Any person or organisation may make representations on the Public Participation paper and these will be considered before developing the Core Strategy any further. Those wishing to make representations are encouraged to use the council's web based consultation system or the comments forms available with inspection copies of the DPD and on the council's website.

Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified when: [formal] Publication consultation (regulation 27) begins; the DPD has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination (regulation 30) and/or when the DPD has been adopted.

Representations relating to the Core Strategy DPD can be returned as follows:

- (1) Online using our web based consultation system at: <http://maidstone-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>
- (2) By email: ldf@maidstone.gov.uk
- (3) By letter: Spatial Policy, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

Only representations that are made in writing (including electronically) and arrive at the addresses specified in (1), (2) or (3) above within the six-week period from **Friday 2 September 2011 to Friday 14 October 2011 by 11.59pm** will have the right to be considered.

David Edwards

Director of Change, Planning and the Environment
28 August 2011



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

**For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on
01303 817150**

BIRTHS

ALLEN

Vanessa Channon and Richard Allen of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Poppy Mia Primrose Allen on 9th August, 2011.

BARTLETT

Kristie and David of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Sarah Anne Bartlett, born at QEQM Hospital on 10th August, 2011, weighing 7lb 11oz. A sister to Luke and William.

LUSTED

Fred and Faye celebrate the birth of their son Owen Samuel Lusted on 11th August, 2011, in Ashford.

MARKLEW / WILLS

India Lousia Rose born on 11th July 2011, weighing 7lb 4oz. Daughter to Polly

Marklew and Michael Wills in Maidstone

NORTHAM

Gemma and David Northam of Margate celebrate the birth of their son Taylor Thomas Northam on 26th July, 2011.

O'HANLEY

Jesse and Paola of Canterbury are delighted to announce the arrival of Martina Rose on 8th August, 2011. A sister for Victor.

REDFEARN

Thomas and Natasha of Wingham are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Matilda Louisa May, on 2nd August, 2011.

SWAN / CHART

The Chart and Swan family celebrate the birth of their son Reece William Richard Swan, born on 14th August, 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz.

TOMKINS

Tara and Paul Tomkins celebrate the birth of their daughter Madison Tomkins on 2nd August, 2011.

DEATHS

ROWLES

In loving memory of our dearly departed dad, Alan George Rowles, 24 Jan, 1935 - 15 Aug, 2011. Larger than life, brighter than sunshine, happy as a Kentish summer's day and sorely missed.

TICEHURST

Albert Henry died peacefully at Kent and Sussex Hospital on 5th August, aged 87 years. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Kent and Sussex Crematorium on Friday, 26th August, 2011, at 1.00pm. Family flowers

only. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Alex Jones Funeral Directors, 01883 730383.

TRIGG

Ewart William Trigg, Sugar Bill, AA Fellowship. 05/03/1919 - 09/08/2011, aged 91years, Passed away unexpectedly on 9th August, 2011. Funeral to take place on Friday 02/09/2011 at Hawkinge Crematorium at 11.45. Family flowers only but donations to Cat Protection, Folkestone.

WICKS

Dennis John Wicks, passed away on the 27th July, 2011. Loving father to Julia and grandfather to Faith. You will always live forever in our hearts. Funeral service at Medway Crematorium on Friday 2nd September at 2:40pm. Enquiries to Horlock, Northfleet.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OLANTIGH ROAD, WYE, ASHFORD)
(SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011**

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers has made an Order, the effect of which is to:-

Extend the existing 30mph speed limit in Olantigh Road, for a distance approximately 65 metres in a north easterly direction, to the northern boundary of a property named Middlefield Cottage.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 30 September 2011, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads affected by the new provisions may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Canterbury

**MANOR ROAD, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on Manor Road, Whitstable, on or after 12 September 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed northbound only between the junctions with Tankerton Road and Northwood Road.

The alternative route is via Northwood Road, Graystone Road and B2205 Tankerton Road.

Southbound traffic is unaffected.

**SUN STREET, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow the safe placement of scaffolding for essential building repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sun Street, Canterbury, on or after 3 September 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 17.

The alternative route for through traffic is via via Burgate, Canterbury Lane, St George's Street, Lower Bridge Street, Broad Street, Military Road, Tourtel Road, Northgate, New Ruttington Lane, Union Place, Union Street, The Borough and Palace Street.

**THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAU
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of ducting works in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Wickhambreau, on or after 15 September 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Ivy Cottage and The Old Workhouse.

The alternative route is via Wickham Road (Wickham Court Lane), Grove Road and The List.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

A2260 SOUTHFLEET ROAD, SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE - (TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting all traffic travelling at any speed excess of 40mph on A2260 Southfleet Road, Swanscombe and Greenhithe between the roundabout at the junction of International Way to the roundabout at entrance to the Northfleet West Grid Sub Station.

The Order will become effective on 12th September 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the restriction is planned to last 3 nights. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to facilitate the reduction of speed of vehicles approaching proposed works on the Ebsfleet Station Western Roundabout gyratory.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**CHURCH STREET ST MARY'S, SANDWICH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of ducting works in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street St Mary's, Sandwich, on or after 30 August 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed either side of the junction with School Road, as signposted on site.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Delf Street and Strand Street.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Delf Street, Hamet Street and Strand Street.

Southbound via Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street, Cattle Market and Delf Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

**WHITE POST LANE, CULVERSTONE -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on White Post Lane, Culverstone between Mountfield Close and A227 Wrotham Road.

The Order will become effective on 29th August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Post Lane, Newlands Lane, A227 Gravesend Road and A227 Wrotham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF EASTBOUND TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by eastbound traffic on High Street between number 34 and Mill Street on or after Sunday 18th September 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 month or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Fairmeadow, Earl Street, Pudding Lane.

Eurovia Contracting Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for the removal of carriageway traffic and refuge islands and the construction of a new courtesy crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is David Waggett on 0208 344 9630.

District of Sevenoaks

**ROCK HILL, SHOREHAM
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Rock Hill, Shoreham between Well Hill and Firmingers Road.

The Order will become effective on 12th September 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to commence 15th September 2011 and last for 5 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Well Hill and Firmingers Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate verge and edge of carriageway repair works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

**CANNON STREET, LYDD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new wastewater connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cannon Street, Lydd, on or after 12 September 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 2.

The alternative route is via High Street, New Lane and New Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

**CHURCH HILL, HERNHILL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Hernhill, on or after 12 September 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Staple Street.

The alternative route is via Staple Street, Kemsdale Road and Kays Lane.

**DAVINGTON HILL, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Davington Hill, Faversham, on or after 1 September 2011.

The Start Date is approximate and follows on from completion of the works in Priory Road.

The works are planned for up to 4 weeks from once they start.

Davington Hill will be closed between the junctions with Dark Hill / West Street and Brent Hill.

The alternative route is via Dark Hill, Priory Road and Davington Road.

**GROVE PLACE, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grove Place, Faversham, on or after 29 August 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with the A2 London Road and Grove Close.

The alternative route is via A2 Ospringe Street, B2040 Ospringe Road, Lower Road and Wallers Road.

**HEAD HILL ROAD, GRAVENEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Head Hill Road, Graveney, on or after 17 September 2011, as shown below.

The initial closure is planned for 17 & 18 September 2011 outside Poplar Hall Farm.

The next closure is planned for 24 & 25 September 2011 outside Forge Cottages.

The alternative route is via Seasalter Road, Faversham Road (note 11' 6" height restriction), Joy Lane, Borstal Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Head Hill.

**SEASALTER ROAD, GRAVENEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seasalter Road, Graveney, on or after 3 September 2011 as shown below.

The road will be closed from the property known as Fairview for a distance of approximately 40 metres northwards.

It is planned there will be 2 weekend closures of Seasalter Road on 3 & 4 September and 10 & 11 September 2011.

The alternative route is via Faversham Road (note 11' 6" height restriction), Joy Lane, Borstal Hill, Thanet Way, Head Hill and Head Hill Road.

This Order is in force for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

**WHITSTABLE ROAD, GRAVENEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

So that the connection point for a new water mains can be safely located, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whitstable Road, Graveney, on or after 30 August 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Whitstable Road will be closed to westbound traffic approximately 30 metres from the junction with A299 Thanet Way Off-slip.

This means there will no access for traffic from the A299 Thanet Way into Whitstable Road.

The alternative route is via A2 Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane and Whitstable Road.

Traffic can still join the A299 from Whitstable Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(COACH ROAD, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Coach Road, Ightham from the junction of Sandy Lane / Pine Tree Lane heading north for 150 Metres on or after Wednesday 14th September 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Copt Hall Road, Common Road and Ismay Road and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary make provision of a new telegraph pole for a new customer connection. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Web on 0870 0500792.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GILLETTS LANE, EAST MALLING)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Gilletts Lane from the side off number 47 Wateringbury Road on or after Monday 12th September 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Chapel Street and The Rocks Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a connection to a property. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Alex McDonald on 07711 491570.

**Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 28th August 2011

**For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad

Women Seeking

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392 (T&C's below)

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, Auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. Sittingbourne. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374755

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that vava-vom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm older male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium build brunette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings in with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133

LINDA slim green eyed brunette WLTm independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133

LISA 19 curly brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131

LYNNIE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386927

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386923

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386921

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387097

TANYA 35, Canterbury, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220

SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. Thanet. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321

VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for friendship. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205

LORNA 66, lively, 5ft 4ins, seeks similar gent, 60-70. Hythe. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387162

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life. Age/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395989

FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371395

BRIGHT bubbly chatty brunette with lots to offer to the right person looking for new love who will appreciate a real woman. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371579

NAUGHTY but nice female, tall, blonde, blue eyes, seeks elderly male, 75-85 for friendship and good fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372311

BUBBLY reliable woman, lots to give, 5ft 5ins, seeks tall professional male with lots of TLC for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372003

30's female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233

DONNA 47, bubbly, caring, loving, seeks genuine, loving guy. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370863

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183

ATTRACTIVE N/S 52yr old female, likes walks, countryside, pubs, companionship for meals out, holidays and sunshine, any buttons pressed in East Kent area, please call. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372917

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. West Sussex. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. Eltham. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, fed up with being alone, looking older male for mutual TLC. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372651

EM attractive lady, mild mannered, nice nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659

ACTIVE solo female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a more adventurous, care to join me? Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50+, Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453

LYNNIE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365953

PAT 70's, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365921

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625

ATTRACTIVE slim 52yr old female, seeks N/S companion, 52-60 to share countryside, walking, swimming, days out, holidays etc. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369179

JACKIE petite attractive, brown hair/eyes, many interests, OHAC, looking for sincere male who also likes good food and wine. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370123

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company. 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is he you? Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172

COUNTRY loving lass seeks country fella for pleasant weekends down on the farm. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370121

WELL grounded 25yr old attractive female, seeks similar male up to 40yrs for mutual friendship and meets. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370117

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613

WANTED. Nice sincere man, 45-58 looking for LTR with kind, sincere female, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, likes wine/dining, walks. Welling. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368117

BEAUTIFUL stunning young female, 21, seeks older, retired gent 70 plus to take care of her. London. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368187

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde who enjoys the simple life seeks understanding older male for fun casual relationship/friendship initially, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371547

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTm male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971

CONFIDENT blue eyed brunette, intelligent, confident and attractive, very solvent, looking for happy older male who will let me look after him. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368401

62YR old male, no Tom Cruise, active, likes fun, trying to get life back together after wife died in 2002. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372579

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, loving, easygoing, likes holidays, music, theatre, countryside, walks, bowling, seeks female up to 60 for friendship, maybe more. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 Box No: 387058

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, no drinker, slightly disabled, WLTm male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

26YR old social pretty blonde with baby blue eyes, seeks outgoing, fun, sports, nousous male for friendship/more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369219

AFFECTIONATE female seeks warm hearted kind guy, if he exists, for good conversation, fun times and laughs. 40-67yrs. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369197

SHY brunette 22, perfect size 10, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, own car, seeks male to cosy up with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369193

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344297

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who talks, walks, dining and dancing. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975

37YR old male, 6ft 7ins, blue eyes, dark hair, GSOH, seeks female. Thanet. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365989

RON retired, active, feels 40, seeks white lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369945

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive lady for special relationship. Farnham. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157

PAUL 56, decorator, 5ft 8ins, cropped hair, attractive, genuine, kind, likes theatre, pubs, seeks female, 50-60. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366935

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973

LEWIS 40, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367713

DAVE own hair/teeth, own car/business, likes holidays, golf, gym, meals out, seeks honest, genuine, slim female with GSOH for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367559

SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904

DARREN 39, 6ft 3ins, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368807

YOUNGISH 49yr old dad, like wine/dining, days out, seeking an attractive female for LTR. Dover. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372171

RICHARD 70, 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks nice, N/S lady, 60-70 for loving relationship. Heme Bay. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372157

66YR old lonely man, seeks new partner for new life in Cyprus where I live. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372131

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: GAY601 to 65125 for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service.

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

MARTIN 41 CD, 50's, seeks similar in the Kent/Medway area for fun times. Can accommodate or travel. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374351

BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-80's for discreet fun. Sevenoaks area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943

GAY male, 80, likes cinema, music, seeks affectionate friendship with similar 75-85yr old male. East Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369673

TALL 35yr old male, seeks CD/TV for friendship and meets. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372181

DAVID 43, 5ft 8ins, good looking, fit, seeking local man for fun. West Malling. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372319

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331

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SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904

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30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331

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Meet the New Zealander with a wish to catch us on the hop

SEE PAGE 53



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Port Lympne invites you to come and see the new boys in town

SEE PAGE 58

Kent Weekend

Sounds familiar

Chris Wood celebrates the joy of English music

SEE PAGE 49



PLUS: Have we allowed too much freedom on the internet? - **talking point p50**
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Playing for the folk who truly appreciate it

Ed Hill discovers the joys of folk music and why we're finally beginning to appreciate that there's more to life than spend, spend, spend

CHRIS WOOD is a well-known name in the world of folk music. The singer and musician, who lives in Faversham, was named Singer Of The Year at this year's BBC Folk Awards.

His love of music came from his Kent roots and he was one of the early members of the Oysterband, who met in Whitstable.

He said: "I was born in Whitstable, so I am a Kent boy born and bred, really. I used to go to the folk club at The Duke Of Cumberland pub way back. One of the people who used to come down and sing on the floor was the novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, who was at the University Of Kent at the time. There were all kinds of talented people who came there."

The club was also the springboard for Fiddler's Dram, who went on to have a national hit with The Day We Went to Bangor.

Wood was immediately taken by the atmosphere of the folk scene.

He said: "What I loved was the immediacy of it. There is no smoke and mirrors or superstars, no limousines. The person performing just sits in front of you and sings. I really like that about folk music and I still do."

Wood, who is self-taught on the guitar, fiddle, viola and bass, teamed up with the accordion-player Andy Cutting to form the influential group Wood & Cutting.

Lately he has been concentrating on his

solo career. His first solo album, The Lark Descending, which was released in 2006, played on the notion of Vaughan Williams's iconic rural tune, focusing on the lives of ordinary people. His latest album, Handmade Life, has a more political edge, being described by MOJO magazine as "highly charged observations on life, love and country".

The singer said: "I have one song called Caesar, which starts 'It's all the little things we find that matter now the circus has left the town'."

"It is a song about the credit crunch and corruption in Parliament and basically how I feel this mad rush of spend, spend, spend is over."

"I think people are beginning to look at what they have got that's important in their lives: the friend who lives over the road, or the allotment. The little things that people want to focus on. Life is not just about spending hours queuing for Bluewater. It's not a revolution, but I do think people are changing."

Wood is an unashamed advocate of ordinary life. A recent project for Radio 3 involved a work based on people around the River Medway.

He said: "I think we are beginning to grow up about our own history. We used to have TV history shows just about the kings and queens. Recently I saw a programme that looked at one village and its history. Everyone in that village had their own important story, not just the barons and the important people."



LOCAL LAD: Chris Wood during his Ashford gig

"The British Library did an exhibition on regional language and dialects, and people are more interested in regional food and recipes. All these things open up our eyes to who we actually are, not who we thought we were."

Wood formed a group called the English Acoustic Collective (EAC) to bring together musicians and artists all with some connection with traditional culture.

He said: "I formed it at a time when people were obsessed with music from other places like Africa, music that came from anywhere but here in the UK. I thought this was ridiculous. Our music is just as beautiful as these other traditions. It's just that it's being ignored."

The EAC works as a kind of networking tool for those involved.

Wood said: "At one point my teaching and performing work brought me into contact with lots of other people interested in the same things. I felt there needed to be some kind of umbrella so we could help each other. It's a rolling mass who come under that banner."

Wood argues our unsung culture needs to be celebrated: "All these people have one thing in common: their interest in someone called Anon. Down the years he has been the greatest writer, poet, songwriter and composer. He has been the greatest artistic creator that ever lived."

Wood was the first act to perform at St Mary's Church in Ashford since it was remodelled as a shared venue for worship and performances.

He said: "I love performing in churches. I started off as a choirboy, so I think it makes me sing better. It's lovely to play a new local gig."

"One of my songs is called Come Down Jehovah. It is a sort of humanist spiritual. I don't think it's an interesting moment when I sing that in a church."

And the musician is still glad he chose to entertain folk fans: "In a folk-music festival as soon as the last note has been played on stage everyone goes back to their tent and starts playing. It is not the same as playing to other punters. When you look out into a folk crowd you know everyone in the audience shares in what you are doing and really knows about it."

• See www.chriswoodmusic.co.uk for details.

Picture: PETER FRY PHOTOGRAPHY

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WHEN Facebook was launched back in 2004 it was originally only available to the students of Harvard University to keep in touch with one another.

Within a few short years the social networking website had evolved into a worldwide phenomenon, and the reasons why people continue to sign up to it in their millions have remained virtually the same.

But while the majority of people who use sites like Facebook and Twitter do so to look at their friend's wedding photos or send out birthday invitations, it has become clear in recent months that social media has a much more powerful role to play in 21st century society.

"Everyone watching these horrific actions will be struck by how they were organised via social media," said Prime Minister David Cameron after the recent acts of rioting and looting which tore several of the country's biggest cities apart.

He continued: "Free flow of information can be used for good. But it can also be used for ill.

"And when people are using social media for violence, we need to stop them. So we are working with the police, the intelligence services and industry to look at whether it would be right to stop people communicating via these websites and services when we know they are plotting violence, disorder and criminality.

"I have also asked the police if they need any other new powers."

While the violence which rocked England has been condemned by most right-thinking people, Mr Cameron's comments have been taken by some as an attack on privacy and free speech.

They question how the authorities could possibly know if someone was plotting to cause trouble, and whose job it would be to make such a judgement. Critics have also pointed out that business, politics and free speech rely on privacy, and that everyone has the right to secure communications.

"Technology is neutral. It's a conduit for information and not something that should be blamed," said University of Kent student Zack Whittaker, who writes regular blogs for the popular ZDNet website.

"It was the people behind the technology who were using it for ill means. Gang culture needs to be tackled at a local level and can't be solved by shutting down Blackberry Messenger or bringing top cops over from the United States.

"At the moment the UK has a stringent set of privacy laws which are outdated and don't reflect what's going on in the world, and the recent arguments over celebrity superinjunctions show just how limited freedom of speech actually is.

"Social networking websites have had a significant impact in that they enable free speech to circulate around the world, and that's often a good thing. We shouldn't clamp down on the social media because of the actions of a minority of users, but the Government will still try to blame it anyway."

As if any further proof were needed of the power of the internet, the so-called 'Arab Spring' was it. While the protestors in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya may well have taken to the streets without the use of Facebook, Twitter and the like, the websites certainly made it a lot easier for them to rally support as well as send a message to other suppressed nations.

But while these people used social media to try to break free from tyranny and gain a better life for themselves, the rioters and looters who tore some of England's biggest cities apart did so mostly for their own thirst for violence and anarchy.

Derek Wyatt, the former Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, was in 2004 voted one of the top 100 internet visionaries and



The riots which tore England apart earlier this month were fuelled by anarchists using social media websites.

Reporter STEVE KNIGHT asks if the time is right for an internet clampdown

CHANGE:
The rise of social networking websites has been a force for both good and evil in recent months

IS NOW THE TIME FOR A NET CLAMPDOWN?

6699

There's no point speculating on whether or not the riots would have happened without social networking sites because we've got them and it's about time we learned to live with them

FORMER MP DEREK WYATT

is currently trying to raise about £3 million to fund the launch of a new internet policy institute.

He said: "I don't think the riots would have been as widespread without the use of social networking websites because with the possible exception of texting they are the fastest way to communicate.

"Unfortunately the cause of the first protest and subsequent riot (i.e. the police shooting of Mark Duggan) has been largely forgotten. It probably would have ended there if the Police Complaints Commission had acted more promptly.

"But there's no point speculating on whether or not the riots would have happened without social networking websites, because we've got them and it's about time we learned to live with them.

"I think the police have been slow in monitoring them though. I wonder how many police there are in the UK who specialise in dealing with this sort of thing. I bet it's not many."

In May, French President Nicolas Sarkozy hosted the first ever e-G8 forum in Paris, where he warned that countries could not remain neutral and allow completely unchecked internet

use. He added that the web was "not a parallel universe where legal and moral rules do not apply".

At the time David Cameron refused to give his backing to any sort of censorship of the internet, but his comments which followed the recent riots suggest he may now have changed his mind.

Mr Wyatt said: "It's inevitable that some sort of international treaty is drawn up within the next 10 years because there's a growing concern about how the internet is used.

"It's impossible to monitor everything but we should be able to say to the owners of Facebook, Twitter or whoever – here is the English law and you must abide by it or we will take you down. Then what appears on their websites becomes their responsibility. It will still be difficult to monitor but we shouldn't give up the ghost before we've even tried.

"We're in the second generation of the internet at the moment and by the third generation people will say they're fed up with things like spam and pirated music and things will happen to tackle the problems.

"We don't have all the answers yet but eventually they will come."

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PIONEER: Francis McClean's efforts ensured pilots were able to train in relative privacy from his airfield in Eastchurch, pictured below, so aiding the development of early British naval aviation

Book celebrates the godfather of aviation

By Mathew Beech

mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

THE work of a little-known aviation pioneer who once flew a plane through Tower Bridge has now been celebrated in a new book.

Completing his feat by 'parking' on the Thames, he is known as the father of naval flying, as described in the book Frank McClean: Godfather to British Naval Aviation.

Francis Kennedy McClean is an important figure behind the development of the UK's pre-war aviation industry, who was based at Eastchurch, on the Isle of Sheppey.

The author, Phillip Jarrett, is keen to show how one man's passion developed an industry and got the country's armed forces off the ground.

Francis McClean trained and worked as a civil engineer but retired while in his early 30s and lived off the vast wealth he inherited from his grandfather, who had also practised as an engineer. With the money he came into, Mr McClean followed his two passions – astronomy and flying.

"McClean travelled the world to witness eclipses, going three or four times to exotic islands to witness the phenomenon," said Mr Jarrett. "His other main interest was ballooning and he was a member of the Royal Aero club, although it wasn't royal cash then."

"He took the opportunity to go on a flight with Wilbur Wright and from then on he was hooked."

After getting his teeth into aeroplanes and teaching himself to fly one of the Wright brother's planes – no mean feat according to Mr Jarrett – McClean then set about establishing the aviation industry in the UK and fulfilling his desire to take to the air, creating the UK's first naval flying school in the process.

Mr Jarrett adds: "The Short



He took off from the Eastchurch airfield and flew to London, before heading up the Thames to Westminster.

On the way to the Houses of Parliament, McClean guided his plane through the upper and lower decks of Tower Bridge, before landing outside of Westminster and heading for lunch.

While away from his aircraft, police officers were keen to find out who had left their plane on the Thames, and on his return, McClean was told to move it, but he was not allowed to take off from the water until he got further down the river.

Poor weather conditions sadly damaged the plane, and it travelled back to Eastchurch via road.

The pioneering work of McClean carried on into 1914, where he pursued the development of multiple engine craft after a close friend went missing on a cross Channel flight.

Mr Jarrett said: "His friend was due to fly back from France but after taking off, he was never seen again."

"This convinced McClean that relying on one engine was not a good idea and that multiple engines were needed."

The Eastchurch site may not be as famous as other airfields, such as Brooklands, for developing the British aviation industry, but according to Mr Jarrett, that is what McClean wanted.

"The privacy to allow flying experiments to take place."

"It was chosen deliberately for this as it meant the naval pilots could learn to fly in peace."

"It is partly because of this that McClean remains a neglected pioneer."

Mr McClean died, aged 79, in 1955.

brothers had a license to build the Wright brothers' planes, McClean helped them turn this into a business and, between 1909 and 1914, bought 16 aeroplanes himself. He made these available to the Territory Army and the Royal Navy from his airfield in Eastchurch.

"The navy then set up a base on the site and McClean gave them all the equipment they needed almost for free, charging a peppercorn rent."

"He got them off the ground, literally, off his own back."

One of McClean's best known stunts took place on August 10, 1912.

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PERHAPS it takes an outsider to recognise the great ingredients we have on our doorstep.

When New Zealander Tonie Prins came to Kent, he expected the county to be full to the brim of pubs and brewers using local hops.

He said: "Kent's reputation for hops was known all around the world, but the main trend seemed to be people going across to Calais and getting their cheap French beer."

The Kiwi had been a keen home brewer in his old country. His passion for the craft didn't diminish despite beginning a career in international management.

"I had a job as an economic researcher for the Agent General of New South Wales, in London, but I knew that brewing was always what I really wanted to do and Kent seemed to be the place to get involved," he said.

After a few years working at local breweries, Prins decided to make a go of it on his own and in 2000 he opened the Hopdaemon Brewery.

The name derives from a folk character said to roam the hop gardens at night, but it was also a suitable tag for the spirit of the beer and its brewer.

Prins said: "I chose the name because our beers are really hop-driven. We don't use hops from places like New Zealand or America. We use Kentish hops and we use a lot of them. We get a lot of fruity aromas and crisp flavours using local varieties. It also tied in with the medieval feel I wanted to create about the beer."

Prins is passionate about using local hops. His supplier grows the aromatic flowers just a mile down the road from his brewery in Newnham.

The brewery produces five main cask and bottled beers with names like Incubus (a bronze-coloured bitter at 4 per cent), Leviathan (a strong ale at 6 per cent) and Golden Braid (a lighter ale at 3.7 per cent).

Prins said: "There is still great beauty and balance in English hops and we can get great flavours with the combinations that we make."

Prins's passion for his craft coincided with

How a New Zealander ditched a high-flying career in finance to come to Kent in pursuit of the perfect pint



BEYOND THE ALE: Tony Prins says there is nothing better than seeing his ales being served on draft at a pub

a resurgence in real ales, but it was still hard work getting established.

He said: "People were stocking real ales from places like Yorkshire. It didn't seem right when we can make such good beers here. Luckily I had some very good pubs that supported me and they are still with me now."

Hopdaemon's reputation grew, helped by winning awards backed by the Campaign For Real Ale.

Prins said: "We have built up a bit of a reputation. I think people are happy spending a little more money on something that has been produced with love and has distinctive tastes and something interesting about it."

Prins is optimistic about the future despite the

difficult few years for the pub industry.

He said: "It was a tough time when a lot of pubs went under with the smoking ban, but many have said to me one way forward was to get into selling real ales."

He also has no regrets about going into the industry.

He said: "I got into brewing not to be a big business man and make lots of money but because I love the art and craft of it and seeing the whole process from start to finish."

"There is nothing like going into a pub where one of my beers is on draft and hearing someone say 'Try that Incubus – it's a cracking pint'. It makes it all worthwhile."

■ Visit www.hopdaemon.com to learn more

Farmers' markets

Mersham

A NEWCOMER to the growing number of markets is now being held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm every second and fourth Friday in the month; it features top-quality local produce at very competitive prices.

Horsmonden

HORSMONDEN farmers' market has some 20 stalls, covering a full range of produce including meat, game, poultry, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, honey, prepared pies, pastries, cakes and bakes and more exotic produce such as prepared Italian meals.

Bridge

THE market at The Red Lion pub on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy fresh local food and drink which contributes to their well-being, protects their environment and respects animal welfare.

Tunbridge Wells

THE farmers' market is located in the historic centre of Tunbridge Wells, The Pantiles. It revives the tradition of an open-air market held here a few centuries ago on the first and third Saturdays between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

Hythe

HYTHE farmers' market was established in March 2004 and is now located in the Methodist church hall (between Chapel Street and Prospect Road); it is open on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10am to midday.

Elham

THE Elham market is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the courtyard of The Rose And Crown pub, from 10am to midday. It offers a selection of locally-produced fruit and vegetables, eggs, fresh meat, game, bread and honey.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

No beef with the steak but price is high at bistro

IN a list of the world's greatest cuisines, it's probably fair to suggest Argentinian won't be among the first crop of names.

It is not be as widespread as Italian, Chinese or Indian, but there is a steadily growing South American presence on the high street. With that in mind, my dining partner and I headed to Buenos Aires in Maidstone in the hope of sampling something new.

With a staple theme of steak, chips and minimal vegetables, here was something with which I could certainly get on board.

Visiting on a Sunday evening, the restaurant was quiet. An elegant interior was let down a little by being too dark. This would have been offset nicely by the candle at our table, but our waiter forgot to light it – the only mistake the staff made all night.

Wanting to save as much room for

RESTAURANT Review



the steak as possible, we shunned the excellent selection of starters and settled on sharing the mixed antipasto (£7.50). It included Serrano ham, provolone cheese, sun-dried tomatoes and ciabatta, which was just right as a

light introduction before the main.

The menu features burgers and other options, although it is difficult to see why anyone would go to Buenos Aires and not choose one of the steaks. There is a wide variety of cuts and sizes available but, keen to taste as much as possible, we went with the steak sampler (£44.95 between two).

The option gives diners a chance to try four cuts of beef, along with a choice of side dishes – we opted for the chunky chips. If you do go down this route, I would recommend following our example and start with the least expensive cut and work your way up. This means going from rump to ribeye and on to sirloin before finally lomo.

All four were deliciously tender and the almost melt-in-the-mouth lomo justified its tag as the priciest. To go with the beef we chose a salsa criolla

sauce, which, considering the price of the sampler, we were surprised cost an extra £2.95.

It was accompanied by an excellent Argentinian Malbec, which at £24.95 was one of the cheapest options.

There was just enough room for a caramel cheesecake (£4.50) and crème brûlée (£5.50), which were fine but nothing out of the ordinary.

With a tip, the bill came to £99.39, which sounds expensive for steak and chips. The quality of the beef probably made it worthwhile and I would go back, but for a special occasion rather than on a more regular night out.

David Pritchard

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Visit the show website: www.WeddingLink.co.uk

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First & Last Herne Common

Why here...

Situated in the countryside between Herne Bay and Canterbury, this friendly Herne Common pub offers a fabulous choice of food, real ales, wines, spirits and a great craic all round.

On the menu...

Bar snacks and hot meals are served every day. A popular Sunday lunch is served from midday to 6pm; booking is essential if you wish to dine before 3pm. The à la carte menu changes weekly.

How to book...

The First & Last
Canterbury Road,
Herne Common, Herne Bay
CT6 7JU
01227 364465

Go wild in the country for a superb meal

A SHORT journey out of Kent's historic cities and inland from our scenic coastal getaways lie some of the county's best-kept secrets... our ravishing rural restaurants.

Whether it be an old rustic pub standing guard over the open green fields and farms or the log-cabin-style woodland restaurant hidden away in a clearing among ancient woodland, there are many good meals just waiting to be discovered.

Rural-country eateries may not have the hustle and bustle of the city streets or potential shopping venues nearby, but they do come with their very own pleasing perks. And we are not just talking about the views.

Diners will work up a good appetite wandering the

bridleways of our many hills and forests of the Downs, and they shouldn't be too surprised to spot pheasants or even deer along the way.

Before lunch, why not tread the footpaths through golden wheatfields or sample the yellow oilseed paddocks of our rolling hills.

For the history buffs among us, there are opportunities all over the Kentish countryside to take in one of the many medieval flint churches or Roman remains.

And if you are more into relaxation, these gorgeous rural summer hot-spots cannot be beaten for a doze and a pint of the good stuff.

The food isn't bad, either, with local venison, rabbit and pheasant all making the rural menus as well as a whole host of other culinary delights!

Here are six of the best from around the county.



The Unicorn Bekesbourne

Why here...

Small country pub minutes from the centre of Canterbury and 200 yards from Bekesbourne train station. Serves traditional pub food made from fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.

On the menu...

Seasonal menu, plus daily specials including homemade pies, fish with homemade chips, salad selection and steak night. Sandwiches with homemade bread are also available.

How to book...

The Unicorn
Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne,
Canterbury CT4 5ED
www.pubunicorn.com



London Beach Tenterden

Why here...

Set in the picturesque town of Tenterden, the London Beach Country Hotel and Spa boasts a charming restaurant and sophisticated spa. Deep in the heart of the Kentish countryside, the hotel is easy to find on the Ashford road (A28) and provides parking for all customers. You will find it's the ideal place to retreat from the hustle and bustle of life and relax for a day or two. Visitors can enjoy stunning

panoramic views of the Weald of Kent during their meal.

On the menu...

The hotel uses fresh produce throughout the menu while looking to source ingredients locally whenever possible. The prices are extremely reasonable for such an array of gourmet goodies. A fantastic menu offers a wonderful selection for either lunch or dinner.

How to book...

London Beach, Ashford Road,
Tenterden TN30 6HX
01580 766279
enquiries@londonbeach.com

The Dove Inn Dargate

Why here...

A quiet village location with stunning beer garden and rustic interior with easy access from Whitstable, Canterbury and Faversham. Beautiful walking areas and a warm gastro pub.

On the menu...

Bar menu offers grilled goat's cheese crostini and potted crab or Welsh rarebit to locally-sourced main dishes such as Seasalter marsh lamb, braised rabbit with parmesan polenta and brill.

How to book...

Plum Pudding Lane, Dargate,
Faversham ME13 9HB
01227 751360
www.thedoveatdargate.co.uk



See Ho Shorne

Why here...

The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and very popular with walkers. It is close to picturesque Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches, dinners and private parties. The venue can seat up to 50 people and is easy to find, just off the A2. Live music, quiz nights and plenty of themed evenings are held at this popular local

inn, which makes all visitors welcome.

On the menu...

Fresh fish is prepared daily and all ingredients are sourced locally. Homemade pies, curries and Italian dishes are also extremely popular. A new chef is bringing the feel of the Mediterranean to the restaurant, which offers top-quality food at affordable prices.

How to book...

Pear Tree Lane, Shorne,
Gravesend DA12 3JX
01474 822386
www.theseeho.com



Blue Pigeons Worth

Why here...

Beautiful and convenient location and proud winners of Channel 4's Three In A Bed hit TV show. Serving fine food with four themed rooms and chalets. Live music, murder mystery, the list goes on...

On the menu...

À la carte or bar menu – all food is cooked from scratch using the very best-quality local produce. Large range of fish dishes and vegetarian options. Booking is essential for diners.

How to book...

The Street, Worth, near
Sandwich CT14 0DE
phone: 01304 613245
www.bluepigeonsatworth.co.uk

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Discover stunning architecture set within beautiful countryside on the Greensand Way when you leave the county town behind to explore

ENJOY open parkland, orchards, oast houses and incredible panoramic views of The Weald and out to the South Downs on this memorable four-mile walk.

Starting in the enchanting village of Linton, just a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of Maidstone town centre, the route quickly leads you on to the Greensand Way.

Following the ridge high above the River Beult, the Greensand Way is a wonderful 108-mile route starting in Haslemere, Surrey, and ending in Hamstreet, Kent.

As you embark on the first leg of the route you may catch a glimpse of the impressive white walls of Linton Park House, which can be seen through the trees as the pathway passes through light woodland and copses of holly, sycamore and sweet chestnut.

Continue past well-established orchards, which provide a mass of blossom in spring and a wonderful rich apple scent in autumn.

The high hedges around the orchards provide much-needed shelter for the fruit trees from potential damage from harsh weather. The views open up again as you continue – on your right you can enjoy excellent views of Goudhurst.

Even further-reaching dramatic views open up as you follow the route alongside St Peter's Church in the village of Boughton Monchelsea. The lych gate to the church was constructed without nails in 1470 and is believed to be the second oldest in the country.

Also en route, Boughton Monchelsea Place strikes an imposing presence across the surrounding countryside. Standing in its own 165 acres of grounds, this Elizabethan stone-built manor house boasts its own lake, deer park, and woodland.

Cattle and sheep graze in nearby fields as you pass by heading towards Linton Park. In the heart of the park you will not fail to stop and take in the scene that meets you. The imposing white Palladian mansion house with its high flagpole sits among the beautiful parkland.

Continue onwards across the park to reach the lake, a popular haunt of wildfowl and in the summer filled with water lilies.

Arriving back in Linton, The Bull Inn is conveniently situated for a welcome rest and refreshment stop.

■ **Location:** Linton, ME17 4AW

■ **Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km); allow 2.5 hours

■ **OS Explorer Maps:** 136, 148

■ **Terrain:** Mainly arable and pasture; paths with some on-road sections

■ **Stiles:** Six

■ **Gates:** Seven

■ **Steps:** One set

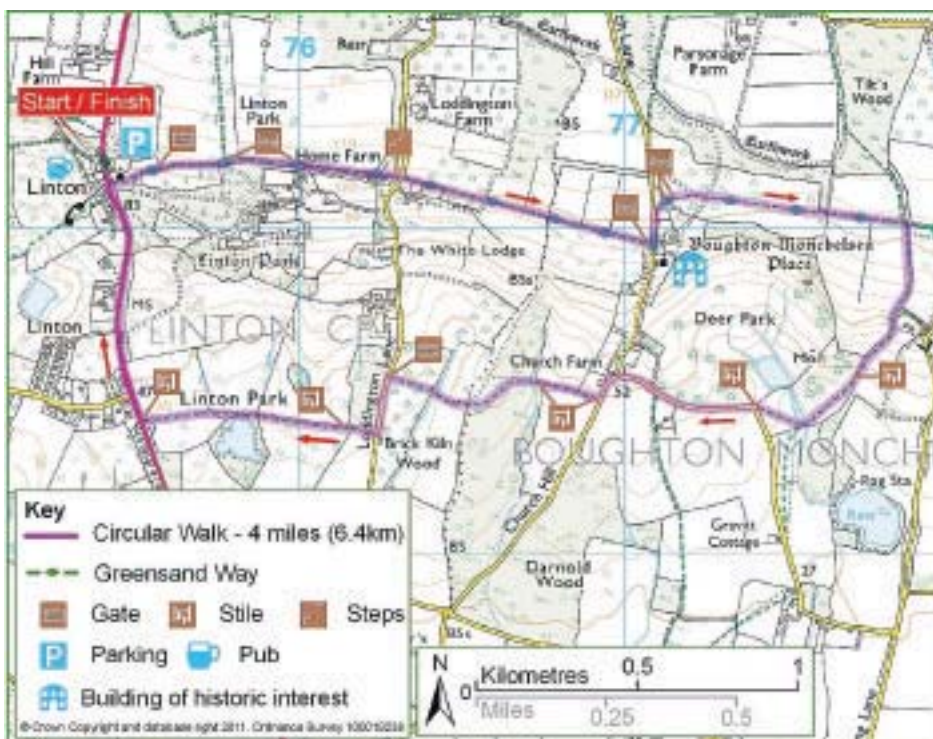
■ **Step count:** approx 8,000

■ **Parking:** Car park in Linton village

■ **Refreshments and facilities:** The Bull Inn pub in Linton village



BEAUTIFUL VIEWS: You can enjoy the countryside for miles around when you take this circular walk from Linton



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EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent,
or phone 08458 247600
(Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).

Fast forward Cheetahs race against time

Port Lympne, near Hythe
Open daily 10am-6pm
01303 234161
www.aspinallfoundation.org

PORT Lympne is delighted to announce the arrival of two young male cheetahs. The pair arrived at their new home as part of a breeding programme with Africa Alive in Suffolk.

The southern cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal, reaching speeds of up to 70mph. It is also endangered. It is estimated that in 1990 there were 100,000 cheetahs in the wild – today just 7,500 remain. The Aspinall Foundation, which works closely with Port Lympne, is a charity dedicated to the conservation of animals and returning threatened species to the wild. Head big-cat-keeper Rich Barnes said: "We have our fingers crossed that the pair will be successful breeding males."



Picture: SAM HARWOOD

Celebrations for centenary A riot of colour

Hole Park Gardens, near Tenterden
01580 241344
www.holepark.com

THIS year marks a significant milestone in Hole Park's history as the Barham family celebrate 100 years in residence. In light of this, the family are welcoming members of the public to explore their 15 acres of beautifully-maintained gardens and woodland. Visitors can enjoy colour all year round, clipped topiary, secluded pools and water gardens. Get lost among the winding paths, boarded with flowering shrubbery, to where a 16th-century ice house has been newly restored. Homemade cakes and juices are available in the coach house, alongside a plant stall. Hole Park Gardens are open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 6pm. Admission is £6 for adults and £1 for children.

Introducing new talent Music and beer

The Alexandra Centre, Faversham Hop Festival
Sat and Sun, September 3-4
www.faversham.org

THIS year's Faversham Hop Festival is fast approaching and the streets of the market town will come alive with a variety of wonderful entertainment. The Alexander Centre,

in Preston Street, will be showcasing young, upcoming musical talent. Over the two-day festival an exciting list of bands, DJs and dance groups will be performing on the Introducing Stage. Organiser Susan Wilson said: "We are so pleased to be able to introduce these rising stars to Faversham. Entry on both days is free and we have a full licence and great facilities for individuals and families. "Our hall opens on to our garden, where we will be serving a delicious BBQ all weekend, and where there will

be an area for young children to play." The line-up includes much-talked-about London group Oscar Suave And The Wrong 'Uns, who will bring their impressive set of psychedelic sounds and slamming guitar hooks. They play at midday on the Saturday, followed by impressive young musician DJ Memro from 3pm. Sunday starts at 1pm with local duo Ant And Luke and culminates with what promises to be an explosive set by renowned Kent rockers Electric River at 3pm. More acts are to be confirmed.

The brew and the boogie Drink up!

East Malling Beer and Cider Festival
Saturday, September 2
Open from 11am-8pm

FESTIVAL-organisers anticipate record numbers of locally-produced beers and ciders this year. As many as 25 varieties are set to be on sale at the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA) East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, which also features live music and local food. Jeff Tucker, chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: "Cider has always proved popular at previous festivals. "East Malling Research has a great heritage in creating apple varieties." Organisers also wish to highlight the range of ciders made from natural ingredients, which are proving to be increasingly popular. Wendy Lanng, cider coordinator of the festival, said: "We are sure that the range of ciders and perries on offer will suit all tastes." The event will run from 11am to 8pm. Admission is £2 for CAMRA card-holders and £4 for non-members. There will also a free bus service running to the festival site from nearby stations.



Farm fun and fresh foods Great days out

Haguelands Village, Romney Marsh
01303 874727
www.haguelandsvillage.co.uk

ROMNEY Marsh's best-kept secret, Haguelands, offers lots of fun, food and frolics. Along with a fantastic farm shop, visitors can try the fishmongers, gift shop, bistro, cookery school, maize maze, tractor rides, paintballing and giant boot fairs; they can also meet a herd of alpacas.

Haguelands offers quality local products ranging from tasty jams and chutneys, Kent cheeses to local juices and even alpaca garments made from the herd's fibre. The site has a drinks and entertainments licence for visitors to sample Kent's best beers, wines and ciders. So why not try the beer garden or a meal in the bistro? The cookery school is also a must, where you can watch everything being created from fresh local ingredients – see the website above for dates. The main event, Opera On The Farm, on Saturday, September 10, still has a few spaces available, so book fast. Ticket prices are available online.



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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

THE CIRCUS OF LIGHT

Last Day Bank Holiday Monday
at 3.30pm
Tickets: £15 Adult; £10 Child; £13 Concession
(all prices include Dickens World entry)

Time for Tea

A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.
Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.
*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches
Next Show Wednesday 26th October at 2pm

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Jongleurs Comedy Night

Friday 2nd September & Friday 30th September
Doors open at 7.20pm • Comedians start 8.30pm
DJ til late, food available
Tickets from £10.80

Selling out Fast, 50 Tickets Remain, Book Now!

Maritime Jazz Festival

Three days of Jazz between 22nd and 24th September
Adult Thurs Night - £11 • Adult Fri Night - £14
Adult Sat Night - £14 • Adult 3 day Festival Ticket - £27

Roy Walker

From the 1970s TV show, The Comedians and long time host of ITV's Catchphrase.
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In conjunction with the Vintage Corporation

Saturday 26th November
Tickets only £14.75

Future Events

Jongleurs Comedy Night
Friday 4th November, Tickets from £10.80

Christmas Launch
Arrival of Father Christmas
Saturday 12th November - Free event

Christmas Jongleurs Special
Friday 2nd December. Best comedians in the land! Tickets from £18.90 - Will sell out, Book now!

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs
Dates throughout December,
Adult £12.50 & Child £9.50

ODEON at Dickens World

Cars 2 (u)	Harry potter and the deathly hallows (12a)	Super 8 (12a)
Conan the barbarian 2d (15)	Mr poppins penguins (pg)	The inbetweeners (15)
Conan the barbarian (15)	One day (12a)	The smurf's 2d (u)
Cowboys & aliens (12a)	Rise of the planet of the apes (12a)	Final destination 5 2d (15)
Harry potter and the deathly hallows 2d (12a)	Spy kids: all the time in the world (pg)	ODEON KIDS
		RANGO 2d (PG)
		SENIOR SCREEN
		THE WAY (12a)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

Dickens World FREE Open Air Cinema

Saturday 20th August
4pm - UP (U)
6pm - Grease (PG)

Sunday 21st August
4pm - Jungle Book (U)
6pm - Little Shop of Horrors (PG)

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



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Leeds Castle

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www.leeds-castle.com

CHARACTERS from the Cambridge Touring Theatre's production of *Wind In The Willows* are to entertain visitors at the launch of the new Black Swan ferryboat at Leeds Castle.

Visitors will be able to see the stunning castle from new angles on the Great Water Lake as well as experience a tranquil journey alongside the Mediterranean-style Lady Baillie Garden and castle aviary. This new feature will be open to the public from Saturday, August 27, at 3pm. Members of the public wishing to attend the launch need to hold a valid Key To The Castle, costing £18.50 for adults, £16 for seniors or people with disabilities and £11 for children. Under-fours go free.



A crafty bunch Show that's out of the ordinary

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge

Fri to Sun, September 9-11
01425 277988
www.ichf.co.uk

CELEBRATE the best that British craftspeople have to offer with an inspiring show, set in the sumptuous surrounds of Penshurst Place. The show offers the finest handmade crafts to spruce up homes and gardens, as well as delicious food and drink, live music, features, displays and a stunning show garden. Up to 200 craftspeople from across the UK will offer unique

wares that you wouldn't find on the high street.

This year's show garden has been expertly designed by local companies How Green Nursery and Chilstone.

Set in the show garden, famed British sculptor Jane Robbins will be showcasing some of her ethereal Ice Angel sculptures. Made out of tinted acrylic resin, they are described by Robbins as Ordinary Angels, but there is nothing ordinary about them. Robbins's former commissions include The Queen Mother, a life-size sculpture of Linda McCartney and a bust of the famed Beatles producer George Martin, following an introduction by her cousin, Paul McCartney.

Tickets are £6.50 for adults and free for under-16s if accompanied by an adult (otherwise £3).

Potter effect Canterbury Tales thrive

The Canterbury Tales

Open daily 9.30am-5pm
01227 479227
www.canterburytales.org

THE Pardoner's Tale, one of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, was the inspiration for a story by Xenophilius Lovegood in JK Rowling's final Harry

Potter instalment, *The Deathly Hallows*. In 2007 the author gave an interview in which she revealed her Kentish influence and since then The Canterbury Tales visitor attraction has reported a huge increase in the number of visitors to its high-street site.

Steve Beer, visitor manager, said: "The Harry Potter movies have definitely helped to reinvigorate Chaucer's famous tales to a young audience." The Canterbury Tales is an award-winning venue in which five of Chaucer's best-loved tales are brought to life using

both live actors and interactive telling of stories, The Pardoner's Tale being one of them.

Guests can experience all of the sights, sounds and smells from the 14th century when they begin their pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral from the famous Tabard Inn.

Mr Beer said: "The tales are a famous part of our history and heritage and it's great that more and more people are interested in learning about them."

Also very popular with tourists, adult tickets cost £7.95 and children's tickets £5.90.



Salute the 40s Teary-eyed look back

Historic Dockyard Chatham

Sat and Sun, September 17-18
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

TAKE a nostalgic step back in time and salute the 40s at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. This popular event boasts more entertainment than ever before.

There will be sing-along sessions, dance workshops, 1940s civilian and military vehicles and authentic air-sirens, followed by fire and medical-service demonstrations, wartime dress-up and paintballing. Visitors will get their hands on history with a strong sense of nostalgia.

New for 2011 is a wartime village with its own butcher, fishmonger, grocer, newsagent, garage, pawnbroker and hardware store. Guests can sample traditional cakes and preserves in the tearoom.

Come dressed in 40s clothes and there will be the chance to acquire a fabulous 40s hairstyle to match.

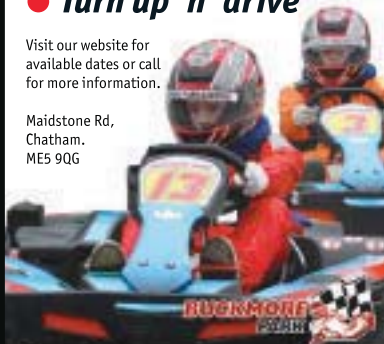
Two-day prices are £16 for adults, £12 for children and £50 for a family of four. One-day tickets are also available.

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Image: Doodle Drawing
Carlos Cortes

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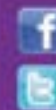
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World greats Classical ensemble

All Saints' Church

Boughton Aluph, Ashford
 Saturday, September 3
 01227 763965

HARRY Christophers and The Sixteen will be giving a performance at All Saints' Church, Boughton Aluph, as part of their 11th Choral Pilgrimage. The programme will involve Marian music by Renaissance master Tomás Luis de Victoria. The group have chosen atmospheric venues like All Saints' Church to make the most of the music. After 31 years of worldwide performance and recording, The Sixteen are recognised as one of the world's greatest ensembles. They are "the voices of Classic FM" and recently featured in the BBC Four television series Sacred Music, presented by actor Simon Russell Beale. Tickets cost £12, £18 or £24.



All the family can race off Karting day

Buckmore Park, Chatham

Monday, August 29
 01634 201562
 www.buckmore.co.uk

YOUNGSTERS can follow in the footsteps of Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton with a karting family day. Buckmore Park is fast and furious and offers entertainment for everyone aged between four and 84. Chatham's award-winning International Outdoor Kart Circuit, just off junction 3 of the M2, is where British world champions Hamilton and Button learnt their trade. A session at Buckmore, which celebrates its 49th anniversary this year, will be memorable. On Bank Holiday Monday, August 29, the circuit is organising a turn-up-and-drive family karting day for all ages from four upwards. For ages four to seven, 15-minute sessions are available in 5mph electric karts on the mini GP circuit, while children aged between 8-11 (and at least 4ft 8in tall) can enjoy the 20mph petrol karts. For those aged 12-16, 40mph petrol karts are available on the more complex 600-metre national circuit. Prices from £15 per session.

Screen stars Minnelli and Garland live

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Friday, October 7
 www.leascliffhall.co.uk
 Tickets £20.50

A SHOW that reawakens Judy Garland and her daughter Liza Minnelli's world-famous 1964 London Palladium concert is coming to Folkestone. This dazzling production tells

the turbulent stories of the legendary performers against the backdrop of the concert. Garland and Minnelli will take the audience through their triumphant highs, heart-wrenching lows and everything in between against a setting of footage, photos and all of their most famous hits, including Cabaret, The Man That Got Away, Liza With A Z and Over The Rainbow, performed in a stunning style by West End stars Emma Dears and Lucy Williamson, backed by a four-piece band with musical supervision and orchestrations from composer Michael England.

The piece has been written and produced by Emma Dears, who also plays Minnelli. Prior to writing the show, Dears enjoyed West End success performing in Sir Cameron Mackintosh's Miss Saigon. She said: 'When I worked in the West End, people always told me that I looked and sounded like Liza Minnelli, so I looked into her life and the life of Judy Garland and became fascinated with their stories. Their songs highlighted and bookended various points throughout their time. I've wanted to write the story for a long time.'



Magic music The very best of Motown

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, October 1
 01892 530613

LIVE on stage it's the music of The Temptations, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie, Martha Reeves, Isley Brothers and scores more. Between 1961 and 1971 Motown Records released 110 Top 10 hits. The Magic Of Motown charts the label's entire history, from this golden period in its history to being heralded as the world's greatest record label. Producer Michael Taylor said: "It's the best live Motown tribute concert show on tour. It's not that it's superbly-choreographed, it's not the 36 million-selling hits, it's not the



dozens of dazzling costume changes featured that make it the UK's busiest production on tour... it's the fact that it faithfully reproduces that elusive Detroit sound." The production revives all-time favourites like Stop In The Name Of Love; Signed, Sealed, Delivered; My Guy; What Becomes Of The Broken Hearted; I Heard It Through The Grapevine; Endless Love, All Night Long and I'm Coming Out. Tickets are £17.50 or £21.



X Factor Stacey sings for RAF Moonlight gig

Chartwell House, Westerham

Sat and Sun, September 3-4
 01959 572277
 www.synergyeventsuk.com

THE Royal Air Force Association is inviting members of the public to the breathtaking grounds of Sir Winston Churchill's former family home for a unique gig. To celebrate the role of the Royal Air Force, the Yesterday & Today event, in association with the National Trust, is hosting a twilight concert. The show will feature music from the Central Band Of The

Royal Air Force as it looks to bring alive some of the RAF's greatest moments through songs, archive film, narration and special effects. The Churchill family, along with members of the RAF, will join in the celebration of the service, culminating in an uplifting, patriotic finale. A display by a Second World War Spitfire and other modern and historic RAF aircraft make this an event not to be missed. X Factor star Stacey Solomon, above, will also headline at this year's Chartwell concert. The queen of the jungle will perform a number of her tracks, including a 21st-century take on a Glen Miller classic. Tickets to this wonderful evening of music and spectacle cost £33.

Adapt just one wall to add all the extra space you could need to your home

Being cooped up indoors all winter may just highlight a need for more space. If you don't want to move house, though, give some thought to adding another room to your property instead.

The contemporary orangeries from Elephant are entirely bespoke and an ideal way to introduce more space without having to sacrifice your garden.

Choosing a wall of Elephant's bi-folding aluminium doors means the space has a dual function: close them and you gain an indoor dining room, playroom or kitchen; leave them open and your garden becomes an extension of your living space.

Because Elephant manufactures everything itself, you can pick different colour finishes for the inside and out to ensure the orangery complements your home.

Elephant will project-manage the whole thing, from lighting to landscaping, so taking a massive weight off your mind.

Conservatories are one of the best ways to give your home that all-important light and airy feeling.

As a place to relax with large windows, they allow a view out to the garden, so increasing the idea of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

They are also ideal for entertaining, especially in the summer months when doors can be left open, making for a seamless transition between the home and the outside, enabling the party or other social event to spill out of the house into the sunshine.

With the addition of plants and carefully-arranged furniture, they can add markedly to the style and individuality of any home as well as considerably increasing its value.

The addition of a drinks cabinet is always welcome, especially when the room is used for entertaining guests, and a dining table can also be used to give something of an alfresco feel to meals taken in the room rather than in a more formal home setting.

Elephant staff are experts in providing exactly what is needed to give the home that little bit extra when it comes to conservatories with style.

The company has a wealth of experience and has seen how changing fashions in home design can be incorporated into the different styles offered to give each design its unique points and make each creation something to be admired – the final results being a proud addition to any house.

■ All projects are bespoke.

■ Frames and roofs are all manufactured at Elephant's factory and are available in any colour in either PVC-u or aluminium.

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■ All products are guaranteed for 10 years.

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■ For more information, phone 0800 195 0000 or visit www.elephantwindows.co.uk





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In choosing to buy a timber building from Skinners Sheds Ltd, you will have the peace of mind that comes from dealing with a company offering more than 30 years of experience. During that time, Skinners has been able to find the best timber-suppliers and wholesalers, who, together with fully-qualified staff, have gained a reputation for knowledge and expertise.

Sheds are a great place for those who have hobbies. Gardening tools can be kept in them, as well as cycling equipment and bikes and

other sports equipment. They are a great way of avoiding clutter in the house and can function as an extra room.

But possibly they are best appreciated as somewhere to get away from it all and have a very personal space.

Shed-owners can customise their constructions to match the features of the main house. A number of decorative options can be added, such as dormers, shutters, flowerboxes, finials and weather-vanes. Also, practical options can be added such as benches, ramps, ventila-

tion systems – for instance in those cases where a swimming-pool-heater is installed in a shed – and electric lighting.

Sheds designed for gardening, called 'potting sheds', often feature windows or skylights for illumination, ventilation grilles and a potter's bench for mixing soil and repotting plants.

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Quality and customer service is the hallmark

of the company, together with meticulous attention to detail.

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■ With more than 14 show sites, Skinners Sheds Ltd is sure to be able to help you discover the perfect design to suit all your needs





■ A range of high-quality sheds of all shapes and sizes is available from Skinners Sheds Ltd, so whether you want somewhere to store tools, a luxury summer house – or both – it's well worth a visit



Seaside attractions make Herne Bay rock

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THOSE in search of traditional English seaside living will find it in Herne Bay with its two miles of seafront offering traditional delights such as ice-cream parlours, cafés, friendly pubs and fish-and-chip shops.

Great beaches lined with brightly-coloured beach huts and a pier are further attractions of this characteristic seaside town.

It is also a destination for sports fans, including rowers, yachtsmen and jetskiers.

The seafront has some interesting Victorian architecture and in the spring and summer months the town's beauty is enhanced by the seafront gardens, bringing floral colour to visitors who pass the clock tower and bandstand.

In recent years, the bandstand has become a venue for those who enjoy café culture and it is also a focal point for summer concerts, other musical events and children's entertainment.

Prices for homes are lower than nearby Whitstable, and those looking for a home in the town can find a bargain.

Detached properties are on offer for an average of £193,177, according to the most recent figures. Flats or maisonettes are going for about £94,000, with semi-detached homes valued in the region of £149,000.

The town has a number of terraced properties and these are some of the most interesting, in architectural terms, in Herne Bay. An average



price for one these is a reasonable £134,520.

Ford Road has some of the highest-priced homes, some close to £500,000 in value, and new estates along the Thanet Way continue to be popular with some buyers.

The Beacon Hill area has some of the most desirable residences, with prices usually being more than £300,000.

Also among the more exclusive parts of the town are Ashbee Gardens, where homes are valued in the £290,000 range, and Benstede Close, where prices are slightly lower. Barnes Way and Ashdown Close are also sought-after areas, with houses priced around £200,000.

Meanwhile, bargain properties in the £70,000 region can be found in some of the backstreets and also along Beach Street.

The nearby villages of Greenhill, Beltinge and Broomfield tend to have homes available in the £140,000 to £200,000 range.

On the rental side, four-bedroom homes are generally in the £1,200-per-month region, three-bedroom around £800, rising to £1,000, and one- and two-bedroom about £500. However, there are some bargains around, with studio flats available for as little as £350.

One major attraction of living in Herne Bay is that, like most seaside towns, there are events

ATTRACTIONS: The pier and clock tower in Herne Bay, where events are staged throughout the year

that celebrate a distinctive identity. Classic-car and other vehicle shows, Italian and Continental markets, carnivals and the Herne Bay Festival are just some of the events that take place throughout the year.

Computer Generated Image



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Dymchurch £230,000

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Greatstone £160,000-£170,000

Two bedroom detached bungalow with lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and modern bathroom. Front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking. NO CHAIN.

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Lydd £89,950

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Guide Price £120,000

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£597,000

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Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Guide Price £125,000

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Departs: 7 October, 2011

Our big-little-adventure combines the glamour of the French Riviera and Monaco with the romance of European rail travel.

Travelling by Eurostar from London St Pancras, then the swift TGV to Nice on the French Riviera, the journey includes the alluring scenery of the Cote d'Azur - yacht-filled harbours, beaches, rocky inlets and millionaires' villas.

We stay in a quality hotel in Nice which is ideally located to



Monaco's famous harbour

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£100
Per couple

explore the old town, with its narrow streets, quaint old buildings and an array of bars, cafés and restaurants.

The pinnacle of the weekend is a visit by scenic coastal train to neighbouring Monaco. The train skirts the coastline, providing magnificent views along the way. It takes you to the heart of Monte Carlo, just a short walk

from the the famous attractions - the Casino, the Royal Palace and the harbour.

Escorted Holiday Includes:

- Return rail travel London to Nice
- 3 nights, 3 star hotel in Nice
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco
- **Option:** Return to London by air or to regional airports for a supplement

Monaco Grand Prix & Azamara Quest Riviera Cruise

Escorted rail holiday - afternoon departure from London

7 days

Quote GP5-KOS

Was From £2399pp

Now from £2299pp*

Departs: 23 May, 2012

Join us for an exclusive, glamorous, luxurious cruise on the French Riviera including a visit to Monaco at Grand Prix time.

We start with a Champagne check-in before an escorted departure by Eurostar to Paris. Here we break our journey with an overnight stay

at a hotel before continuing by TGV train to the south of France to join the Azamara Quest for our full-board 5-night cruise.

The Azamara Quest is a 5★ premium intimate cruise ship, carrying a maximum of 694 guests in luxurious accommodation. She weighs 30,277 tonnes and was launched in May 2007.

We join the ship in Nice for a cruise that also takes in St Tropez and Portofino.

On the third day of the cruise, the Azamara Quest arrives early in Monaco. It's race day in the principality and the high-speed action continues all day.

Tickets to the race are not included in the price of your holiday, but they will be available to pre-purchase when they are released (prices on request from November 2011).

At the end of the cruise we disembark in Nice and transfer to the station for the return journey to London, arriving early evening.

Cruise ports of call:

- Nice overnight > St Tropez overnight > Monaco > Portofino > Nice

Escorted holiday includes:

- Champagne check-in
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- Luggage handling
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- All transfers abroad

Monaco Historic Grand Prix

Escorted rail holiday - afternoon departure from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

5 days

Quote HP5-KOS

From £699pp

Departs: 10 May, 2012

Monaco's Historic Grand Prix is a bi-annual extravaganza run on the Formula 1 course with just as much glitz and glamour as the modern-day event - but with the charming old cars dating from the 1940s to 1980s. We've included 2-day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix so you can get close to the action and enjoy the sights and sounds of this fabulous event.

We have an afternoon departure



Historic cars on the Monaco Grand Prix circuit

Champagne check-in

by Eurostar to Paris, with an overnight stay, before continuing on the TGV train to the South of France and Nice, where we stay for 3 nights.

The Kyriad Hotel (Nice Gare) is well regarded for its modern comfortable bedrooms and the high standard of service guests receive. There are dozens of restaurants close to the hotel in Nice's 'veille ville' and exploring the old town is part of the charm of this super seaside city.

Escorted Holiday Includes:

- Champagne check-in (London departure only)
- Return rail travel London to the South of France via Paris
- 1 night in Paris outbound
- 3 nights 3 star hotel B&B in Nice (4-star & Monaco hotel upgrades available)
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco
- 2 day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix



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Eco Auris fails to excite

By Sam Davison

editorial@archant.co.uk

TOYOTA'S eco-champion Prius is probably the most well-known green car on the planet. It's only available with the Japanese marque's ground-breaking petrol-electric hybrid system, so you can't help but shout your environmental awareness if you buy one.

But Toyota also makes what is probably the world's least well-known green car, the Auris HSD (Hybrid Synergy Drive). If you buy one of these to proclaim your stance on the environment, then it could come out as a whisper.

That's because this eco version of the British-built Auris – Toyota's Ford Focus class challenger – looks just like its petrol and diesel-driven sister models and there is little on the outside to say that it is as green as the Prius.

Admittedly it's well equipped, but not much cheaper than a Prius, which starts at £20,845, while Auris Hybrid prices start from £19,895 – only a grand or so less.

For that little saving you get marginally better fuel consumption but less space.

It's all rather disappointing. When Toyota said it would build the eco Auris, industry watchers like me thought it would really set the cat among the pigeons; built using the cheaper UK manufacturing cost base – the Prius is imported from Japan – surely it would be an affordable hybrid to tackle a rash of eco diesels from other mainstream carmakers?

Surely not, it seems.

Still, even at its rather extravagant price, the Auris HSD has its merits for those serious about greening their image and lowering running costs.

Look closely, too, and it does differ slightly from the conventional Auris line-up: a different bumper and grille and bigger rear spoiler deliver better aerodynamics. It also sits slightly lower for the same reason.

The big differences are inside, though. Most

TOYOTA AURIS HSD T4: £19,895



FACT FILE

Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Rival:	VW Golf BlueMotion
Kent dealers:	
Motorline	
Ashford	0844 822 7122
Canterbury	0844 822 7131
Tunbridge Wells	0844 822 7171

GREEN BUT EXPENSIVE: The Toyota Auris HSD does have its merits when it comes to eco-friendly driving, but could its price tag be its downfall?

obvious is the slightly insipid gear selector from the Prius. Probably the most disappointing thing about driving a hybrid, it really is a select-and-forget device, although there is a sport button to inject some extra life into the car even if this defeats the object of having a green car.

As you might expect, then, the Auris is not set up to scurry about; the chassis delivers comfort rather than tautness and, in any case, the dashboard display gently nags and encourages you to drive steadily and environmentally.

However, if you do follow that course and feather that right foot, the HSD can deliver even better figures than the official combined 74.3 or 70.6mpg, according to which size alloys you go for on the entry model as tested here.

The only fly in the ointment – and we've proved it with the Prius and rival Honda Insight – is that a hybrid's fuel consumption can be undone by extensive motorway work and

humbled by an eco diesel with tall gearing such as VW's excellent Golf BlueMotion.

Used principally in an urban and rural environment, though, where its smaller size is a plus against the Prius, the Auris comes into its own, with the onboard computer regularly reading 70+mpg.

Using the EV (electric vehicle) mode you can also drive in complete silence for short (and slow) local journeys for a few minutes before the 1.8-litre petrol engine tells its electric counterpart: "OK, that's enough, you're running low on battery and it's time for some proper muscle".

And that engine can be noisy if you are called to dart out of a junction or bowl along a motorway at the highest speed.

Day-to-day use also can't disguise that the standard Auris boot is compromised slightly by the need to carry the hybrid electric battery array beneath its floor.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



VW on the Up! with city car

VOLKSWAGEN has released shots of the production version of its eye-catching Up! city car, tipped to go on sale by the end of the year. The big cabin/small footprint Up! will be sold in three versions: Take Up! will be the entry model, with Move Up! as the mainstream car and High Up! – not surprisingly – being the flagship.



Fiat extends MyLife range

FIAT has launched a high-spec/high-value Bravo family hatchback. The Bravo MyLife, based on the Active trim level, comes with the excellent MultiJet 105bhp diesel as standard plus 16-inch alloys, Fiat's Blue&Me entertainment and communication system, leather steering wheel with audio controls, electronic stability control and air bags.



Grille the new face of Lexus

LEXUS has unveiled its all-new GS model to tackle the BMW 5-Series and Mercedes-Benz E-Class sector. It will come with a new grille which the Toyota executive brand intends to become the new face of all its models. It is also claimed the GS range, arriving in early 2012, will have a more dynamic chassis and include hybrid and F-Sport performance models.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRI hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 30 September 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Calls may be recorded for training purposes only.

Vauxhalls to be unveiled at Frankfurt showcase

VAUXHALL will use this year's Frankfurt Show (September 15-25) to give the eagerly-awaited Astra GTC and Zafira Tourer their world debuts.

It will also show a production-ready Ampera, which the brand claims will be Europe's first electric vehicle suitable for everyday use.

But there will be strong indications too that the internal combustion engine is not dead yet, with the unveiling of seven new versions of existing Vauxhalls wearing the marque's ultra-green Ecoflex sub-brand.

But the rakish three-door version of the latest Astra will take the limelight; many spin-offs from five-door family



hatchbacks have tried to claim coupe status, but the GTC looks like the real deal – especially as Vauxhall has added a high-performance front-suspension arrangement and will offer it with nothing less than a respectable 120PS (118bhp) of engine power at launch.

It arrives in showrooms within the next few weeks, but would-be Zafira Tourer buyers have to wait until early next year for that car and its redesigned seven-seat Flex seating system, and to test Vauxhall's claims about its superior driving dynamics.

Arriving sooner will be those low-emission/low-road tax Ecoflex models: the Agila 1.0 petrol (109g/km of CO₂), Meriva 1.3 CDTi (109g/km), road tax-exempt Astra 1.7 CDTi (99g/km), Insignia 1.4 Turbo petrol (134g/km) and Insignia 2.0 CDTi (115g/km). There will also be Ecoflex versions of the Astra GTC and Zafira Tourer.



WORLD DEBUT: Vauxhall Zafira Tourer and Astra GTC, left, will be revealed

Beemer's dynamic xDrive models boost X3 range

BMW has added two new models to its X3 range.

Following the successful BMW X3 xDrive20d's arrival last year, the German executive marque has launched the higher-powered, higher-specification X3 xDrive30d and X3 xDrive35d.

Benefiting from an eight-speed automatic gearbox as standard, the 3.0-litre engine in the X3 xDrive30d produces 258bhp and will reach a

sports car rivalling 62mph in just 6.2 seconds yet produces CO₂ emissions of just 159g/km and an official combined fuel consumption of 47.1mpg.

The new flagship BMW X3 xDrive35d is similarly powerful yet frugal: 313bhp, 0-62mph in 5.8 seconds, 162g/km of CO₂ and a combined fuel consumption of 46.3mpg.

The new X3s come with Dynamic

Stability Control that includes additional braking safety features, and brand watchers will note BMW's increasing emphasis on its all-wheel drive xDrive system, touted as a rival to Audi's familiar quattro format.

Whether xDrive can become as high-profile as quattro, only time will tell, but this second-generation X3 line-up is far superior to the original car.

Prices for the X3 range start at

£31,140, with the new xDrive30d available from £37,600 and the xDrive35d from £40,205

BMW's gloriously extravagant yet practical executive hatchback 5-Series Gran Turismo is now also being offered with even more luxury – for up to £1,770 less.

All models (from £46,205) now come with BMW Professional Navigation System, electrically-adjustable front seats with driver



POWERFUL: New BMW X3 xDrive

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*VAT FREE offer is based on Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £8,495 including a customer saving of £1,715 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,210. **The Swift 1.3 DDiS M/T model falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band B at £20 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. *109g/km CO₂ relates to the Swift 1.3 DDiS models. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2011 and 30th September 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to press.

Model shown is the Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £8,495* on the road (metallic paint available at £399). Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO₂ emissions from 129g/km to 109g/km.



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NEARLY NEW 2011/10 60 REG CARS

2010(60)	NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC PLUS 2 4X4 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 200 miles.....	£22,495
2011(11)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£21,995
2010(60)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£19,995
2010(60)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£15,995
2010(60)	VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£15,995
2010(10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles.....	£14,995
2010(60)	MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles.....	£14,995
2011(11)	VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 350 miles.....	£14,995
2011(11)	PEUGEOT 308 HDI S 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO, THORIUM GREY, 1000 miles.....	£12,995
2011(11)	HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO, BRONZE, 300 miles.....	£12,995
2011(11)	VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 500 miles.....	£12,995
2011(11)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles.....	£12,995
2011(11)	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£11,995
2010(60)	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles.....	£11,995
2010(60)	NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles.....	£11,995
2010(60)	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£11,995
2011(60)	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles.....	£11,495
2011(60)	VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles.....	£10,995
2010(60)	FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles.....	£10,995
2010(60)	HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 400 miles.....	£9,995
2010(60)	TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 900 miles.....	£9,495
2010(10)	KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£7,995

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009(59)	BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,995
2010(10)	PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles.....	£13,995
2009(59)	RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO, RUBY RED, 8000 miles.....	£11,995
2008(08)	RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 7000 miles.....	£8,995
2010(10)	PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles.....	£13,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA VISIA CC MANUAL CONVERTIBLE, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£7,995
2005(55)	PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE SPSPEED MANUAL COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 48000 miles.....	£4,995

NEW FIESTA

2011(11)	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, MIDNIGHT SKY GREY, 500 miles.....	£12,995
2010(60)	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£11,995
2009(09)	FORD FIESTA ZETEC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£9,995
2009(58)	FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£8,995
2006(56)	FORD FOCUS C-MAX GHIA MPV AUTO, STRATO SILVER, 21000 miles.....	£5,495

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2010(10)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 4000 miles.....	£9,995
2009(09)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2010(10)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(08)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£8,995
2008(58)	FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles.....	£8,495
2008(08)	FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,995
2005(54)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 29000 miles.....	£4,995
2006(55)	FORD FOCUS LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, JEANS BLUE, 28000 miles.....	£4,995

FOCUS ESTATES

2008(08)	FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ESTATE ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(08)	FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 5000 miles.....	£8,995
2008(08)	FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 11000 miles.....	£7,995

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59)	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£14,995
2008(08)	RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 SSTR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£7,495
2008(08)	RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 SSTR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 SSTR MPV AUTO, TEMPEST, 15000 miles.....	£6,995

RENAULT

2009(59)	RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO, RUBY RED, 8000 miles.....	£11,995
2010(59)	RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles.....	£11,995
2008(08)	RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(08)	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles.....	£7,995
2008(08)	RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1500 miles.....	£6,995
2008(57)	RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2008(08)	RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5DR HATCH AUTO, EXTREME BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£5,995
2003(53)	RENAULT SCENIC FIDJI 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles.....	£3,695

CHEVROLET

2009(09)	CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, POLY SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£6,995
2009(59)	CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 500 miles.....	£5,995
2009(59)	CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£5,995
2009(58)	CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2008(08)	CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£5,495
2008(08)	CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£5,495
2008(08)	CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....	£4,995
2006(56)	CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£3,995

HYUNDAI

2011(11)	HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 100 miles.....	£10,995
2010(10)	HYUNDAI I30 COMFORT CRDI 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£10,995
2008(08)	HYUNDAI COUPE SHI COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(58)	HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£6,995
2009(59)	HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£6,495
2008(58)	HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2008(08)	HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£5,995
2008(08)	HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 7000 miles.....	£5,995
2008(08)	HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 13000 miles.....	£5,995
2008(08)	HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,495
2007(07)	HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEASIDE BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£5,495
2008(57)	HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 27000 miles.....	£4,995
2007(57)	HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 14000 miles.....	£4,495
2006(56)	HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£4,295

KIA

2010(10)	KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£7,995
2008(08)	KIA RIO GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£6,495

DAIHATSU

2008(08)	DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2007(57)	DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2007(07)	DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£5,995

MAZDA

2009(59)	MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GALAXY GREY, 12000 miles.....	£12,995
2008(08)	MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GOLDEN SAND, 5000 miles.....	£10,995
2008(58)	MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(08)	MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£8,995
2007(56)	MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,495

BMW

2009(59)	BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,995
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FUSION

2010(60)	FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles.....	£10,995
2010(10)	FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995
2009(09)	FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495
2008(08)	FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles.....	£6,995
2009(09)	FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£5,995

CITROEN

2008(58)	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£7,995
2006(06)	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£4,995

CORSA

2011(11)	VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 500 miles.....	£12,995
2010(10)	VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 2000 miles.....	£8,995
2009(59)	VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 10000 miles.....	£8,995
2010(10)	VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, METRO BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£8,995
2008(58)	VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,995
2009(09)	VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....	£7,495
2008(08)	VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, STAR SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, METRO BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,495
2006(06)	VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE ECO 12V TWINPORT MTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles.....	£4,695

SUZUKI

2009(59)	SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£8,995
2007(57)	SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,495
2009(59)	SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,995

TOYOTA

2008(08)	TOYOTA AVENTIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles.....	£12,995
2008(08)	TOYOTA AVENTIS T4 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£11,995
2010(60)	TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£10,995
2010(60)	TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 900 miles.....	£9,495
2008(08)	TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER STEEL, 15000 miles.....	£7,995
2010(10)	TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£7,995
2008(08)	TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£7,495
2005(55)	TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£6,995
2005(05)	TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57)	MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles.....	£6,995
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HONDA

2008(57)	HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, WHISTLER SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£16,995
2008(57)	HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£16,995
2007(07)	HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles.....	£15,995
2008(08)	HONDA FR-V I-VTEC EX MPV AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£12,995
2011(11)	HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO, BRONZE, 300 miles.....	£12,995
2006(06)	HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles.....	£9,995
2008(58)	HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£9,495

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NISSAN

2010(10)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles	£16,995
2008(58)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles	£15,495
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles	£14,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles	£12,995
2010(60)	NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles	£11,995
2010(60)	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles	£11,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, CAYMAN BLUE, 14000 miles	£11,995
2011(11)	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, RED, 2000 miles	£11,995
2011(60)	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles	£11,495
2010(10)	NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles	£9,995
2010(59)	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 5000 miles	£9,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles	£8,995
2009(59)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles	£8,995
2008(08)	NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 14000 miles	£8,995
2009(09)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles	£8,495
2009(58)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles	£7,995
2007(57)	NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles	£6,995
2007(57)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles	£6,995
2008(57)	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 18000 miles	£6,995
2005(55)	NISSAN PRIMERA SVE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles	£6,995
2006(56)	NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles	£5,995
2005(05)	NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles	£4,995
2004(54)	NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles	£4,995
2005(05)	NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles	£4,995
2005(55)	NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles	£4,995
2005(54)	NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles	£4,995
2005(05)	NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles	£4,995
2005(05)	NISSAN PRIMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 43000 miles	£4,995
2006(06)	NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles	£4,995
2005(54)	NISSAN MICRA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNO GREY, 12000 miles	£4,995
2005(05)	NISSAN ALMERA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, MERLOT RED, 1800 miles	£4,995
2005(05)	NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles	£4,495

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2008(08)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 5000 miles	£10,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 13000 miles	£8,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 9000 miles	£8,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 12000 miles	£8,995
2009(59)	VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles	£8,495
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles	£8,495
2009(59)	VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 5000 miles	£8,495
2008(08)	VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles	£6,995
2005(05)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, STAR SILVER, 9000 miles	£5,995
2005(05)	VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MTA MPV AUTO, STAR SILVER, 7000 miles	£4,995
2007(07)	VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, METRO BLUE, 51000 miles	£4,695
2005(55)	VAUXHALL MERIVA ENJOY 16V MTA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles	£4,495

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008(58)	VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles	£9,995
2009(59)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles	£9,995
2009(59)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles	£9,495
2010(59)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles	£8,995
2009(09)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles	£8,995
2009(59)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles	£8,995
2008(58)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles	£8,495
2007(57)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£6,495
2007(57)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles	£5,995
2008(57)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles	£5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010(10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles	£14,995
2010(10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles	£10,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2010(10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE ESTATE AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 3000 miles	£9,995
2008(58)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 8000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 7000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles	£6,495
2008(08)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 18000 miles	£5,995
2006(56)	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 19000 miles	£5,995

PEUGEOT

2010(10)	PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles	£13,995
2010(10)	PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles	£10,995
2010(10)	PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ABYSS BLUE, 6000 miles	£9,995
2010(59)	PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MONTEBELLO BLUE, 1000 miles	£9,495
2009(09)	PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIMBUS GREY, 7000 miles	£8,995
2008(08)	PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles	£8,995
2007(57)	PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 23000 miles	£7,495
2007(57)	PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles	£6,995
2009(09)	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ELECTRIC BLUE, 9000 miles	£6,995
2008(08)	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, CITRUS YELLOW, 14000 miles	£5,995

FIESTA

2008(08)	FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, AMETHYST, 5000 miles	£7,995
2008(08)	FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles	£6,995

MERCEDES

2008(58)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles	£13,995
2009(09)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles	£12,995
2007(57)	MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles	£12,995
2008(08)	MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, COSMOS BLACK, 8000 miles	£11,995
2006(56)	MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 KOMPRESSOR SPORT EDITION COUPE AUTO, BLUEBLACK, 48000 miles	£10,995
2008(08)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£10,495
2007(57)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles	£9,995
2003(53)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 ELEGANCE SWB 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 42000 miles	£4,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles	£12,995
2011(11)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles	£12,995
2010(59)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 3000 miles	£11,995
2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£11,995
2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE GRAPHITE, 18000 miles	£11,495
2009(09)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ANTHRACITE GREY, 5000 miles	£8,995
2008(58)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles	£8,995
2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles	£7,995
2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, CORNFLOWER BLUE, 6000 miles	£7,995
2005(05)	VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles	£5,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2010(60)	VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles	£15,995
2010(60)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles	£15,995
2009(59)	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles	£14,995
2009(09)	MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles	£12,995
2011(11)	PEUGEOT 308 HDI S 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO, THORIUM GREY, 1000 miles	£12,995
2008(08)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles	£12,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2009(59)	VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR, TECHNICAL GREY, 18000 miles	£8,495
2007(57)	TOYOTA YARIS TR 5DR MANUAL HATCH, GREY, 14000 miles	£5,995
2006(56)	VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles	£5,495
2005(55)	PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE 5SPEED MANUAL COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 48000 miles	£4,995
2006(06)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV, METRO BLUE, 37000 miles	£4,995
2002(52)	VAUXHALL ASTRA LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 49000 miles	£2,495

SKODA

2008(58)	SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles	£7,995
2008(08)	SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles	£7,495

QASHQAI

2010(60)	NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC PLUS 2 4X4 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 200 miles	£22,495
2011(11)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles	£21,995
2010(60)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIGHTSHADE, 5000 miles	£19,995
2010(60)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles	£19,995
2009(09)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles	£16,995
2008(58)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles	£15,995
2008(58)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles	£15,495
2009(09)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£14,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles	£14,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles	£12,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, CAYMAN BLUE, 14000 miles	£11,995
2008(08)	NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles	£11,995

MINI

2010(60)	MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles	£14,995
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VAUXHALL AGILA

2011(60)	VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles	£10,995
2008(08)	FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles	£6,995

VECTRA ESTATE

2008(08)	VAUXHALL VECTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles	£7,995
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SEE PAGE 94

New Registration '61



INNOVATIVE: French marque Citroën has created a dynamic new DS premium line, recently adding the family hatchback-class DS4 – though Citroën would prefer us to regard it more as a mid-size executive coupé.

Buyer incentives drive a good deal

NEW-car sales may have been gloomy, but carmakers' and dealers' misfortunes could add up to a windfall for the canny buyer.

He or she may be tempted already by the new '61 plate arriving on Thursday (September 1), particularly if they are in a steady job.

After all, a new house – the big-ticket item in anyone's budget – is a scary option in such uncertain times, but anyone who has savings earning a pittance might make more of them through driving a hard bargain on a car.

Manufacturers and forecourts are desperate to deal and there is a new realism about list prices anyway as the trade recognises that these fairytale figures deter genuine private buyers, thereby outweighing their intended benefit: to convince fleet buyers of fantastic bulk-buy discounts and to give dealers room to manoeuvre on deals and part-exchanges.

Other buyer incentives out there in a tough market include superb packages on finance – which banks aren't keen to match – insurance and servicing.

There are also outstanding warranties available, such as Hyundai's five-year/unlimited-miles deal and Vauxhall's 'lifetime' guarantee on cars up to 100,000 miles.

Servicing deals often cost extra but can be very cost-effective, so ask about those.



ECO-WARRIOR: Vauxhall Corsa – not only is this distinctive supermini one of the UK's favourite cars, but the road tax-exempt low-emission/frugal EcoFlex version is one of the greenest cars you can buy

Remember, too, that road tax also favours downsizing and changing to a leaner and meaner motor; many small cars and family hatchbacks now qualify for zero road tax in year one and modest charges thereafter.

Diesels have won over many sceptics with their economy and good low-down power delivery – sales of this type rose 7.5 per cent over the first six months of 2011.

But petrol power is fighting back, particularly at the lower end of the market. The fuel itself is

set to stay cheaper than diesel simply because oil-refining capacity is geared more to the former.

Petrol engines are also cheaper to buy up front and lighter, and while they still cannot compete on economy with diesels, it is the savings elsewhere that quietly add up: less wear and tear on tyres and front-end mechanicals.

Small and efficient turbocharged petrol units also make a difference in small cars – they are nimbler and nicer to drive.



IMPOSING: The all-new Saab 9-5 offers more executive class for your money than most rivals

And petrol engine emissions are being lowered steadily so their road tax and emissions credentials are far better; average new car CO₂ emissions overall fell to a record low of 138.9g/km in the second quarter of this year.

Factor in all of the above and the sums start to add up on ditching something dated and less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model – it might be better for your wallet and your well-being than leaving the money in the bank.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) - 68.9 (4.1), Extra-urban 36.2 (7.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range 237 - 89g/km.

Motor market cut down to size

DOWNSIZING continues to be the UK motor market's buzzword.

Some 20 years ago, the family saloon/company-car sector was dominant, largely thanks to the company-car culture where big and brash was beautiful.

Then came the rise of the family hatchback and supermini; throughout the Nineties and early Noughties they had a ding-dong battle for market leadership.

However, helped by soaring fuel and insurance costs, greater environmental awareness and then by Government legislation via punitive road tax on larger cars, ever-more stylish superminis comprise some 40 per cent of sales if you include the even smaller city-car contenders – family hatchbacks had to settle for the No 2 spot with about 25 per cent of registrations.

More difficult to quantify, though, is the trend towards 'crossovers' – cars like the Nissan Qashqai, Skoda Yeti and Peugeot 3008.

As the name implies, they straddle several sectors, including family hatchback, MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people-carrier and SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle), and are hard to pigeonhole under current classifications.

Many manufacturers have already tried to apply the sexy new crossover label to what would once have been their SUV models – especially as the 4x4/SUV sector



SMALL-SCALE STYLE: Alfa Romeo has packed more curves into its junior MiTo model than any other supermini

has declined – and we can expect an industry reappraisal of how classes are defined and counted.

This could then show a burgeoning third sector comprising the new-age crossover designs.

In the meantime, registration figures so far this year from the motor-industry mouthpiece SMMT show how superminis (S) and family hatchbacks (H) rule the UK top 10:

- 1 **Ford Fiesta (S)**
- 2 **Ford Focus (H)**
- 3 **Vauxhall Corsa (S)**
- 4 **VW Golf (H)**
- 5 **Vauxhall Astra (H)**
- 6 **Vauxhall Insignia**
- 7 **VW Polo (S)**
- 8 **BMW 3-Series**
- 9 **Nissan Qashqai**
- 10 **Mini (S/H)**



POPULAR: Renault's clout in the UK market rests on its best-selling Clio supermini



EVOLVED: Those old Iron Curtain-era jokes about Skodas are dead... models like the versatile five-door Fabia supermini have seen to that

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*New available on Expressions, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra, etc. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PG Box 8888, Cardiff, CF10 7TE. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applications must be made prior to order. Offer applies to private vehicles only. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24. Goodhouse only excluding £250. All other conditions are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 30 September 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty is a limited warranty of 100,000 miles. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

Lean, mean times give fuel for thought

GLOBAL warming and care for the environment have created a need for leaner and meaner models.

New road-tax bandings based on CO₂ emissions output and ranging from zero to £950 a year for gas-guzzling limos or 4x4s are changing our car-buying habits, too.

Of course, anyone spending £50,000-£100,000 on a new motor won't worry about small change like that, but most people like saving a few quid through the improved economy of greener cars while, incidentally, doing their bit for the environment.

Longer-term, electric cars may be the answer and there has been much publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or city-centre charging points.

But battery technology has some catching up to do and the zero-emissions argument is misleading. Until we have zero-emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO₂ and noxious-gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney.

Production of hydrogen to power our cars raises a similar dilemma.

Are hybrids the answer, then? Japanese giants Toyota and Honda lead here, pairing conventional engines with electric power and batteries.

But hybrids are expensive, so the internal combustion 'lump' still has a part to play now that its emissions are plumb-



GREEN MACHINE: Prestige with an eco-conscience – the Mercedes-Benz C-Class

meting, economy soaring and refinement improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what some legislative prods have achieved.

The downsizing phenomenon is well under way, too, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful'.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco' sub brand such as Vauxhall's Ecoflex, Skoda's Greenline and Hyundai's Blue, while most Mercedes-Benz models are now

branded BlueEfficiency to reflect their lean and mean technology.

But they are not necessarily the cheapest option, so weigh potential long-term savings against upfront cost; if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models, either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small-capacity, low-emission/consumption petrol engines.



BARGAIN: Five doors and minimal running costs including no road tax – the Hyundai i10 Blue



SAVINGS: Diesel versions of BMW group's Mini have become the best-sellers by far as buyers increasingly go lean and mean

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on SuperNova. R5 65 500 models. Model shown is New Astra SRi. See Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading name of GMAC UK plc. PG 000 000. Credit: CF1677T Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer available privately to those who have a valid Vauxhall Finance account or are a current Vauxhall Finance customer. All other conditions apply. Offer available to private customers registered before 30 September 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers the lifetime ownership of the original new vehicle. 100,000 miles limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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† Figures calculated based on Government EU60 Driving Cycle of 39.2mpg for Vito 113 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY van. †† Vehicle shown for illustrative purposes only. Finance for BUSINESS USERS ONLY. Example based on a Vito 113 CDI Compact BlueEFFICIENCY manual transmission including first registration fee, RFL, styling, delivery and finished in white paint at a price of £20,200.00 + VAT on a Mercedes-Benz Finance Agility contract with a deposit of £2,500.00 that includes total VAT of £1,000.00 and a deposit contribution of £2,000.00 followed by 36 monthly payments of £2,000.00 and an optional final payment of £2,000.00. Finance based on 10,000 miles per annum. VAT is charged at the prevailing rate. Weekly equivalent £59 per week. Credit provided subject to status. Offer is subject to terms and conditions. Weekly figure for illustration purposes only, monthly terms apply. Vehicles must be registered between 1/10/2011 and 31/12/2011. Vehicles must be supplied by a franchised Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles Dealer. Offer subject to availability. Finance provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd. WMT 000.

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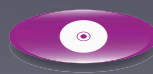
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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the Picanto range are: Urban: 42.2 (6.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban: 62.8 (4.5) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined: 53.3 (5.3) – 67.3 (4.2). CO2 emissions are 125 – 99 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and exclusions. Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Model shown is 1.0 Picanto 1 @ £7,995 On The Road (OTR). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 1 August and 30 September 2011. 100% finance available on Kia Personal Contract Purchase on New Picanto models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value) to own the vehicle (ii) Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. Kia Financial Services RH1 1SR.

Lexus visitors rise to the hybrid challenge

LEXUS centres at Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells have proved you don't have to drive a supermini to be eco-friendly.

The two sites – part of the Motor-line group – staged a Top Gear-style Lexus Hybrid Drive Challenge to promote the Japanese executive marque's new CT200h petrol-electric hybrid model.

Instead of lap times, visitors to the showrooms who took a CT200h test drive were judged on their fuel consumption at the end of a 15-mile route covering realistic conditions.

Paul Stapylton, brand manager for the Lexus sites, said: "We wanted and succeeded in attracting customers into our showrooms who had never been there before."

"The CT200h's official extra-urban consumption figure is 70.6mpg, but few visitors believed it was capable of that or even understood the other benefits of owning the car – no road tax, plus exemption from the London congestion charge."

"They also didn't appreciate realistic pricing [from £23,485] for an



ECONOMY DRIVE: Competitors who took a new CT200h petrol-electric hybrid model for a drive were judged on their fuel consumption

executive car with so many groundbreaking features.

"The Top Gear-style leaderboard changed daily as customers strived to be top and it was soon clear that the published figures would be smashed at both sites – the highest being 86mpg."

"But it wasn't just about mpg in the end, as we had so many compliments

about the car's quality and the showroom experience – Lexus has topped the JD Power customer-satisfaction survey for the past 11 years."

HYBRID CHALLENGE WINNERS

■ **Canterbury 86mpg:** Howard Matthews, Ellens Road, Ashford.
■ **Tunbridge Wells 77.7mpg:** Leslie King, The Paddock, Vigo, Meopham.

Dos and don'ts before buying your new car

DON'T accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.

Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.

Don't fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.

Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

Don't be blinded by road tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials and the savings over your planned ownership mileage/years and then compare against the closest standard version.

Do not assume that diesel will save you money – you will usually pay far more up front and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear and tear on front tyres



HYBRID: Malaysia's Proton offers a dual-fuel petrol and LPG version of its popular GEN-2 family hatchback and saloon models.

and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps, while petrol cars have become dramatically better on fuel and emissions and, in most cases, are far nicer to drive.

Do spare a thought for an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) car model. LPG offers lower emissions and is roughly half the price of petrol at the pumps. There are also many more filling stations offering the fuel, so there is now no need to rely on the car's more expensive petrol tank bridging the gap between gas fill-ups.

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Model shown is Orlando 2.0 VCDi LTZ

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost. Spark £375, Orlando £410. Offer available on vehicles registered between 1st July and 30th September 2011. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, Cruze, Orlando and Captiva. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban - 29.1 (9.7), Extra Urban - 47.9 (5.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3). CO₂ emissions 172g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS Hatchback: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 42.8 (6.6). CO₂ emissions 153g/km.



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Official fuel consumption figures mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Lowest GEN-2 1.6 Persona MT (petrol); urban 28.5 (9.9), extra urban 60.1 (4.7), combined 42.8 (6.6), CO₂ 157; Highest: GEN-2 1.6 GSX AT: urban 26.16 (10.8), extra urban 47.09 (6.0), combined 38.22 (7.8), CO₂ 184.

*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecologic 1.6 GLS MT; manufacturer's list price £10,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. Model shown/specified is GEN-2 ecologic GSX MT; manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecologic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. ^Free leather offer ends 30th September 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. †Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. †LPG prices taken from www.petrprices.com - national LPG average on the 28th June 2011.

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Fuel economy figures for the PIXO 1.0 VISIA 5 DOOR mpg (l/100km). Urban - 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban - 62.8 (4.5), Combined - 54.3 (5.2), CO₂ emissions 103 g/km. NOTE 1.6 n-tec 5 DOOR Urban - 33.2 (8.5), Extra Urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 42.8 (6.6), CO₂ emissions 149 g/km. NEW MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5 DOOR Urban - 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban - 65.7 (4.3), Combined - 56.5 (5.0), CO₂ emissions 115 g/km.

Offers valid until 30 September 2011 at participating dealers only. 3 years free servicing available on new Micra and Note and only on other models when funded through Nissan Finance's Preferences or Lease finance agreements. Model shown is Pixo Visia priced £6,389 on the road plus optional metallic paint at £400 incl. VAT. NCRS shown for reference only. £6,389 incl. VAT. Micra shown has optional metallic paint at £400 incl. VAT. Guarantees and conditions may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Finance provided by RAC Financial Services Limited, PO Box 1199, Watford WD17 1SL. At participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk or your local dealer for information. Roadside services provided by RAC. Motability Services and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and road fund licence. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shown is for illustration purposes only. Model subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Nissan Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9TS.

Family demand makes hatchback toughest sector in the car market

SUPERMINI sales might be on the march in these environmentally-aware times, especially in multi-car households.

But family hatchbacks remain the optimum size for most buyers and no wonder then that it is the hardest-fought sector for manufacturers.

Buyers want space, comfort and a good ride, but they also demand a good driving experience and, increasingly, better fuel consumption and emissions levels – few contenders tick all the boxes.

Here are some recommended rivals, though:

■ **Alfa Romeo Giulietta:** Offers Italian style and coupé lines married to five-door versatility and a great driving experience backed by engines to suit all tastes.

■ **Citroën C4 and DS4:** The former offers versatility and practicality and some eco options, while the latter is the current flagship of the French marque's premium DS range.

■ **Honda Civic:** Space-age looks and style and the attraction of being built



THING OF BEAUTY: Alfa Romeo Giulietta – surely the most stylish car in this class?



SLEEK: Renault Megane – less divisive styling than before and stunning in three-door Coupé format



'I' GENERATION: Hyundai i30 (estate model pictured) is evidence of Hyundai's rapid rise in the global market

in Britain make the Civic a popular buy. The diesel is particularly classy and refined.

■ **Hyundai i30:** Available as a five-door and stylish estate, this range launched the Korean marque's new 'i' generation of European-inspired cars that are good to drive and more welcoming in style and finish. Value and a five-year warranty are no longer the only reasons to buy a Hyundai.

■ **Mazda3:** Mazda's Zoom Zoom contender is a more premium option with a good choice of engines, green creden-

tials as standard and generous equipment, plus cracking MPS performance flagship.

■ **Proton GEN-2:** Malaysian brand's mainstay model offers great value, especially if you buy the dual-fuel (petrol/LPG) model for the same price as the normal petrol-only version.

■ **Renault Megane:** The distinctive rear-end 'bustle' is no more, but the new generation looks more like a coupé in three- or five-door form, with great diesel options and scorching Renaultsport versions, too.

■ **SEAT:** The five-door Leon features concealed rear door handles to enhance its low slung coupe styling, yet this VW Golf inspired car is as practical as it is good looking and fun to drive.

■ **Skoda Roomster and Octavia:** more MPV than family hatch, the Roomster's rear 'room' has been cleverly grafted onto a car-like front to deliver the best of both worlds. The Octavia also straddles two sectors: it competes as a large family hatch, but is also a more compact rival to bigger cars like the Ford Mondeo –

especially in popular estate form.

■ **Toyota Auris:** The Corolla is no more, but Toyota has married that car's legendary reliability and practicality to the style of the British-built Auris (pronounced Owris). Three and five-door versions are offered along with smooth and powerful diesels and there's even a petrol-electric hybrid.

■ **Vauxhall Astra** – superbly styled and well-made, the five-door and Tourer (estate) Astra will soon be joined by a three-door GTC that could be described more as a coupé.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 26.6-55.4 (10.6-5.1), Extra Urban 41.5-70.6 (6.8-4.0), Combined 34.4-64.2 (8.2-4.4).

The official CO2 emission figures for the range are 217-115g/km. *Rental stated is for Renault Lease. Renault Selections PCP finance product also available. If you choose Renault Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example for Clio 3-door I-Music: 1.2 16V 75. Advance rental £159 followed by 43 monthly rentals of £159, final rental £3,640. For Mégane Hatch I-Music: 1.6 110. Advance rental £229 followed by 43 monthly rentals of £229, final rental £4,261 and for Scenic I-Music: 1.6 110. Advance rental £289 followed by 43 monthly rentals of £289, final rental £4,432. A finance facility fee of £149 will be payable with the advance rental. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for the conduct of general insurance business. Available at participating dealers only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other schemes or offers, please see your local dealer for details. *Service offer covers vehicles for 3 years or 30,000 miles (whichever comes first) and is available at the point of new car registration. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for the conduct of general insurance business. The Service offer can be transferred to another new vehicle at no extra cost. Services must be carried out in line with manufacturer's servicing schedule and can be carried out at any Renault dealer.

When you need to cram more in...

PEOPLE-CARRIERS or MPVs have helped stifle sales of traditional family cars.

Buyers have been wooed by a higher driving position and more space and versatility.

The feeling that they are also getting more car for their money also surely helps.

Despite the required one-box or 'mono-cab' design, examples highlighted by star brands here show a surprising variety of executions by MPV stylists.

■ **Citroën Picasso:** Not one car but a whole sub-brand ranging from the chunky pseudo SUV-style C3 Picasso to a brace of C4 models – one with five seats and the other with seven. Style, value and flexibility come as standard.

■ **Hyundai:** Strictly speaking, the marque's ix20 contender is a supermini that passes as an MPV due to a high roof and huge cabin for its size, with the fast-growing Korean marque adding its usual five-year/unlimited mileage warranty. The i800 is at the other extreme: eight seats and huge carrying capacity.

■ **Mazda:** In keeping with its sporty Zoom-Zoom image, Mazda's '5' is a slick and racy MPV that drives well and has sliding doors for access to the rearmost seats. It is well priced and can seat seven.

■ **Mercedes-Benz:** The A-Class is a clever family hatch/MPV available as a three- or five-door, with excellent engines



TAKE YOUR PICK: Citroën C4 Picasso comes in a choice of five- or seven-seat models

and the premium image of the classy German brand.

■ **Renault:** Started the people-carrier fashion with the Espace and Scenic and continues to be a major player. The scenic is a big seller in both five- and seven-seat versions.

■ **Seat:** The Spanish marque majors on its sporty image and that means its Altea and Alhambra MPV models are not allowed to look stodgy. The former certainly is a rewarding drive, while the seven-seat Alhambra is as practical as it is good to look at.

■ **Skoda Roomster:** The Czech brand reviewed the small MPV market and came

up with a novel approach by marrying a car-like front with a boxy and spacious MPV rear – the 'room' that inspired the name Roomster.

■ **Vauxhall Zafira and Meriva:** The distinctive seven-seat Zafira is the UK's best-selling midi-MPV and available with a wide range of powertrains. The easy operation and folding of the rearmost seats is much imitated but never bettered. If you need something smaller, then the second-generation Meriva blends style brilliantly with versatility helped by wide-opening doors (see picture).



SLICK: The Mazda5's swirling side motif suggests surfer appeal



UK BEST-SELLER: Vauxhall Meriva is both stylish and versatile

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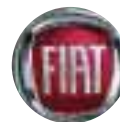
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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO2 emissions in Europe.† Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Panda MyLife 1.2 8v mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO2 emissions 113 g/km. Price relates to illustrated model of Panda MyLife 1.2 8v in Bossa Nova White paint finish and includes air conditioning, remote central locking, 14" alloy wheels and front electric windows. Terms and conditions apply. Retail customers only. While stocks last. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. July to September 2011 offer. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on Volume-weighted average CO2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, year 2010.

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*Elect 4 Personal Lease prices & offers apply to qualifying new Citroën vehicles sold & registered by 31 May 2011 & include VAT, delivery to Dealer & number plates. Government First Registration Fee. & 12 months' graduated Vehicle Excise Duty. Black/metallic/pearlescent/Sport Yellow/Sport Red paint optional at extra cost. An advance rental will be required. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. †Payment of the optional final rental extends the rental term this does not transfer title of the vehicle) & requires an annual rental equivalent to one months' rental. Finance subject to status. A guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Limited stock availability. †† Available on selected models. E50E

IT'S wise to strike a balance between expressing your personality and exerting practicality in choosing a car colour.

You may want sell on at some stage and, like those hideous 1970s bathroom suites, find that 'Acid Green' and 'Coffee Brown' is not to everyone's taste.

But playing safe can be a turn-off to would-be buyers, too, so here is the motor-trade body SMMT's league table and some pros and cons:

1 Black (24.7 per cent): The perennial favourite, but it looks dirty quickly and shows little scratches or the swirling effect from over-use of mechanical car-washes.

2 Silver (21.4): Is still riding high and hides scratches and carwash-abrasion well but is increasingly seen as the boring or safe option.

3 Blue (16.5): Is conservative yet smart; however, very dark blue is best avoided.

4 Grey metallic (14.4): More assertive and upmarket than silver?

5 Red (10.2): Had fallen away due to a tendency to go pinker with age, but better finishes and use on sportier models has helped stabilise figures.

6 White (10): Has shot back up the charts; it's usually a no-cost option, handles wear and tear well and also reflects the heat.

A Iso-rans: Green (1.1), Beige (0.9), Yellow (0.4) and Brown (0.4).

Check out the colour charts before buying your new car



RACY RED: Sporty Seat has tapped into bright colours successfully with models like its racy Ibiza supermini, seen here in three-door SC format



BIT OF ALL WHITE: This Skoda Octavia vRS performance flagship champions white – the colour that's 'bubbling under' in the colour charts



BRIGHT IDEA: The Honda Jazz supermini/MPV wears brighter colours like yellow well

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Range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 44.1 – 30.4 (6.4 – 9.3), Extra Urban 64.2 – 46.3 (4.4 – 6.1), Combined 55.4 – 38.7 (5.1 – 7.3). CO₂ emissions 119 – 192 g/km.

Convertibles driving a soft bargain

BRITAIN is one of Europe's top markets for convertibles.

It sounds crazy when another UK top trump is our wet climate, but maybe getting the top down is all the more important to us when the opportunity comes so rarely.

Then there's the heritage factor: UK manufacturers were early leaders in open-top motoring, with classics including the three-wheeler Morgans – soon to be revived – Triumph TRs, Jaguar XKs and the E-Type and, course, MGs.

But then the doldrums set in for wind-in-the-hair driving; as UK carmakers declined, diverting valuable research and development into the convertibles-market niche could not be justified.

Classics like the MGB were allowed to become outmoded and the few imported convertibles tended to be equally flaky or exorbitant luxuries.

Then Mazda created the MX-5 in the late 1980s. It could have worn a Triumph or MG badge, but while those marques undoubtedly inspired it, they could not emulate its balance and reliability.

Starved of affordable crop-top motoring, the British public couldn't get enough MX-5s.

The MX-5 also brought something else to open-top motoring: a properly weathertight roof that could be raised or lowered in seconds and, if you were strong enough, single-handedly from the driver's seat.

As more convertibles entered the market, so



RELIABLE: The revolutionary yet traditional MX-5 started the convertible revival – this is the third-generation car

the quality of weather and sound insulation improved. Heated-glass rear screens also became the norm and many premium models came with electric power for raising and lowering.

And there was another innovation: Mercedes-Benz came into the two-seat roadster market

with the SLK in 1996, featuring a folding hard-top.

Others rushed to copy the idea: Mazda added this option to the MX-5 range, while Renault has recently added the tiny Wind roadster to its line-up.



CLASSY: The third-generation Mercedes-Benz SLK – the original 1990s version started the folding-hardtop fashion



NEWCOMER: The Renault Wind – a tiny and fun-to-drive folding-hardtop option

The innovation showed you could now have a convertible that was more secure and usually more refined than one with a soft-top; no longer seen as a 'holidays and high days' car, here was a dream motor that you really could justify as your everyday or even company car.

Lookers Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz E-Class Saloon. Feast your eyes.

The perfect blend of style and performance, now available with a finance package to match.

The Mercedes-Benz E-Class Saloon is one of the world's most thoughtfully built cars. Every detail is designed for your safety, enjoyment and comfort and packed with innovations that keep you on the road and in a car that oozes class.

The Mercedes-Benz E 200 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon is now available from just £325* per month courtesy of Lookers plc this Summer.

To book a test drive call us today.



Representative example	Monthly	On the	Retailer	Customer	Total	Number	Optional	Amount of	Total amount	Acceptance	Purchase	5.20%	5.9% APR
Mercedes-Benz E 200 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon SE	Payments* £325.00	road price £28,920.00	deposit contribution £773.59	deposit £5,995.00	deposit £6,768.59	payments 36	purchase payment† £13,250.00	credit £22,151.41	payable†† £31,993.59	fee £180.00	activation fee £95.00	Fixed interest rate	Representative

Lookers plc

Mercedes-Benz of Ashford Monument Way, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 0HB **0844 649 1489**

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Mercedes-Benz of Tonbridge Vale Rise, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TB **0844 649 1491**

www.lookers.mercedes-benz.co.uk



Mercedes-Benz

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the E-Class Saloon range: urban: 15.1(18.7)-45.6(6.2), extra urban: 31.0(9.1)-67.3(4.2), combined: 22.4(12.6)-57.6(4.9). CO2 emissions: 295-129 g/km. Image model featured is a Mercedes-Benz E 200 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon SE at £28,920.00 on the road including metallic paint at £645 (on the road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). *Based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ††Includes optional purchase payment, purchase activation fee and retailer deposit contribution. Example based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. These offers are available on E-Class Saloon models ordered and credit approved between 1 July and 30 September and registered by 31 December 2011, excluding AMG and special request engines. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We reserve the right not to allow this subsidised rate to be used in conjunction with any other offer from the retailer. Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, MK7 8ND.

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[†]Models shown: Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,995 OTR including a £1,200 customer saving. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 dr at £8,495 OTR including a £1,250 customer saving. Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 hatchback at £9,995 OTR including a £4,300 customer saving. Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. 3 years' or 30,000 miles free servicing, whichever occurs sooner is available to private retail customers only on all Hyundai i20 models registered between 1st July and 30th September 2011. Servicing can be carried out by any Hyundai dealer in accordance with the Manufacturer's servicing schedule for the specific vehicle. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st July and 30th September 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers with the exception of the Hyundai i20 3 years' free servicing offer. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty or ask your local dealer. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO₂ Emissions 225 - 99 g/km.

ALL-ROUNDER:

Mercedes-Benz Vito – designed for the driver's everyday comfort as well as efficiency, with long-term reliability for the operator



VERSATILE: The Vauxhall Vivaro is one of the UK's biggest-selling vans

VAN design has been revolutionised over the past decade or so.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Initially, this was confined to smaller models derived from cars and included air-con and a decent sound system, but the same philosophy has since migrated to larger vans.

The range of van capacities has also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback used by a courier company or perhaps as a small company's runabout, right up to a 17-cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the super-

mini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers also take up the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now usually a choice of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

Petrol-driven vans have been all but dis-

placed by the better economy and range, plus pulling power low down in the rev range, by four- and five-cylinder diesels.

Diesel operating benefits are then compounded by extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts.

The engine's partner – the gearbox – has also had a change. A six-speed manual gearbox is normally the standard – a couple of cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly

to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions. These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also improved. Along with various airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).

Find a van for all seasons

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THE NEW CT 200h

The Lexus CT 200h is leading a quiet revolution. Its sophisticated full hybrid system creates near-silent driving in electric mode, with class-leading low emissions and superb fuel efficiency. It delivers a truly rewarding driving experience, with smooth acceleration and agile handling.

Representative example

Model	CT 200h SE-I
35 Monthly payments	£299.00
Cash price	£23,485.00
Representative 9.9% APR†	
Customer deposit	£5,880.39
Amount of credit	£17,604.61
Guaranteed Future Value/ optional final payment	\$11,278.80
Total amount payable	£27,624.19
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.10%
Term	36 months

Lexus Canterbury 01227 455553

Lexus Tunbridge Wells 01892 700400



CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km). CO₂ emissions combined 94 g/km.



The Monaco Grand Prix is the most popular on the calendar

Save
£200
Per couple

Monaco Grand Prix & Azamara Quest Riviera Cruise

**Escorted rail holiday -
afternoon departure
from London**

7 days

Quote GP5-KOS

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Departs: 23 May, 2012

Join us for an exclusive, glamorous, luxurious cruise on the French Riviera including a visit to Monaco at Grand Prix time.

We start with a Champagne check-in before an escorted departure by Eurostar to Paris. Here we break our journey with an overnight stay

at a hotel before continuing by TGV train to the south of France to join the Azamara Quest for our full-board 5-night cruise.

The Azamara Quest is a 5★ premium intimate cruise ship, carrying a maximum of 694 guests in luxurious accommodation. She weighs 30,277 tonnes and was launched in May 2007.

We join the ship in Nice for a cruise that also takes in St Tropez and Portofino.

On the third day of the cruise, the Azamara Quest arrives early in the Monaco. It's race day in the principality and the high-speed action continues all day.

Tickets to the race are not included in the price of your holiday, but they will be available to pre-purchase when they are released (prices on request from November 2011).

At the end of the cruise we disembark in Nice and transfer to the station for the return journey to London, arriving early evening.

Cruise ports of call:

- Nice overnight > St Tropez overnight > Monaco > Portofino > Nice

Escorted holiday includes:

- Champagne check-in
- Upgraded return rail travel London to the South of France via Paris
- Luggage handling
- 1 night in Paris outbound
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- Complimentary shuttle service to/from ports, where available
- Gratuities included for housekeeping, dining & bar staff
- All transfers abroad

The Riviera & Monaco Express

**Escorted rail holiday from
London, Ebbsfleet &
Ashford**

4 days

Quote RM10-KOS

Was £449pp

Now £399pp*

Departs: 7 October, 2011

Our big-little-adventure combines the glamour of the French Riviera and Monaco with the romance of European rail travel.

Travelling by Eurostar from London St Pancras, then the swift TGV to Nice on the French Riviera, the journey includes the alluring scenery of the Cote d'Azur - yacht-filled harbours, beaches, rocky inlets and millionaires' villas.

We stay in a quality hotel in Nice which is ideally located to



Monaco's famous harbour

Save
£100
Per couple

explore the old town, with its narrow streets, quaint old buildings and an array of bars, cafés and restaurants.

The pinnacle of the weekend is a visit by scenic coastal train to neighbouring Monaco. The train skirts the coastline, providing magnificent views along the way. It takes you to the heart of Monte Carlo, just a short walk

from the the famous attractions - the Casino, the Royal Palace and the harbour.

Escorted Holiday Includes:

- Return rail travel London to Nice
- 3 nights, 3 star hotel in Nice
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco
- **Option:** Return to London by air or to regional airports for a supplement

Monaco Historic Grand Prix

**Escorted rail holiday -
afternoon departure from
London, Ebbsfleet
& Ashford**

5 days

Quote HP5-KOS

From £699pp

Departs: 10 May, 2012

Monaco's Historic Grand Prix is a bi-annual extravaganza run on the Formula 1 course with just as much glitz and glamour as the modern-day event - but with the charming old cars dating from the 1940s to 1980s. We've included 2-day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix so you can get close to the action and enjoy the sights and sounds of this fabulous event.

We have an afternoon departure



Historic cars on the Monaco Grand Prix circuit

Champagne
check-in

by Eurostar to Paris, with an overnight stay, before continuing on the TGV train to the South of France and Nice, where we stay for 3 nights.

The Kyriad Hotel (Nice Gare) is well regarded for its modern comfortable bedrooms and the high standard of service guests receive. There are dozens of restaurants close to the hotel in Nice's 'veille ville' and exploring the old town is part of the charm of this super seaside city.

Escorted Holiday Includes:

- Champagne check-in (London departure only)
- Return rail travel London to the South of France via Paris
- 1 night in Paris outbound
- 3 nights 3 star hotel B&B in Nice (4-star & Monaco hotel upgrades available)
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco
- 2 day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix



The TGV near Nice



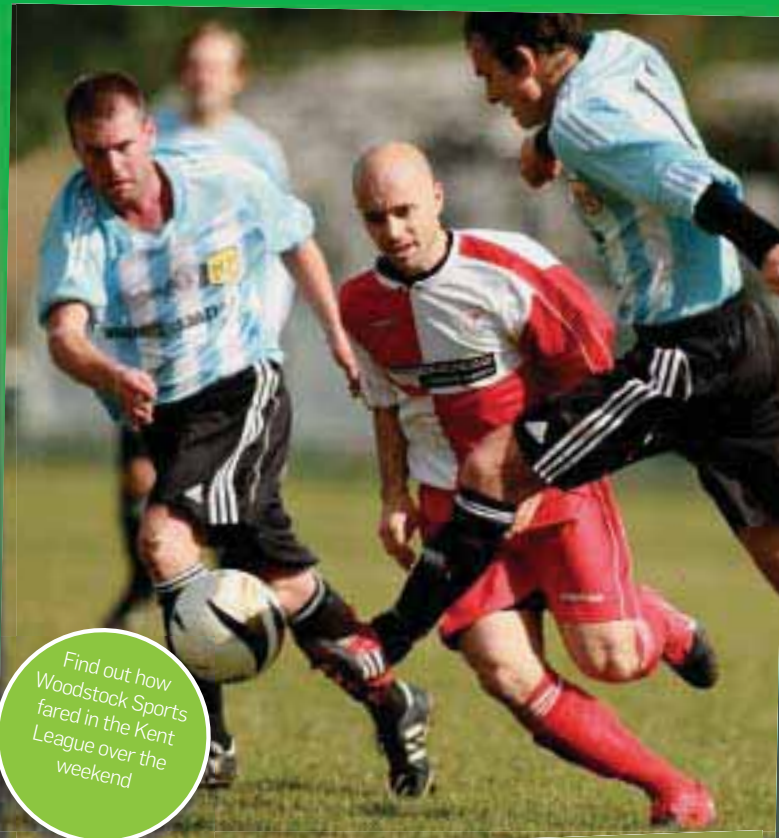
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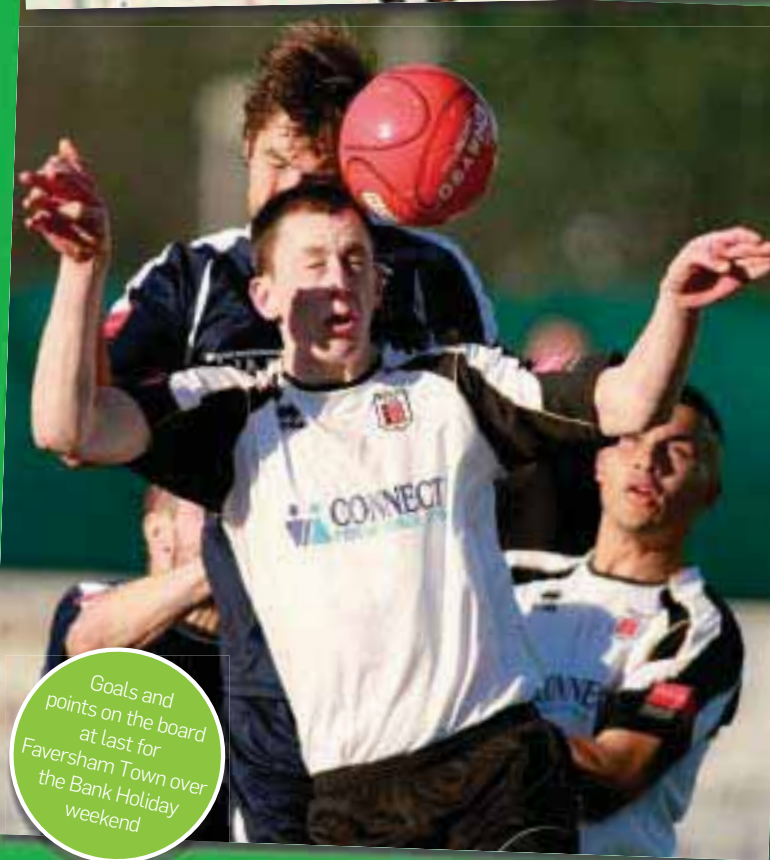
The Azamara Quest



Report and reaction from last night's game between Sittingbourne and Maidstone at Bourne Park



Find out how Woodstock Sports fared in the Kent League over the weekend



Goals and points on the board at last for Faversham Town over the Bank Holiday weekend



Relegation for Gore Court finally confirmed by defeat last Saturday

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